Medical Student Summer Clinical Externship (MSSCE)  
2012 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP) is excited to announce a new opportunity for medical students - the Medical Student Summer Clinical Externship (MSSCE). MSSCE has been developed for medical students with a strong desire for clinical experience in the field of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) and who are eagerly seeking opportunities to see patients. This program aims to provide a wide range of inpatient and outpatient clinical exposure and to allow students to explore the human side of patient care and the psychosocial environments their patients face.

Deadline for Site Sponsors to apply for the 2012 Scholarship is March 9, 2012

Site Sponsor Instructions and Application

Deadline for Medical Students to apply for the 2012 Scholarship is April 6, 2012

Medical Student Instructions and Application

OVERVIEW

There is an ongoing and growing shortage of physicians who specialize in the care of people with disabilities. This summer clerkship aims to address this situation by providing an exposure to the field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation early in future physicians’ careers (the summer between first and second years of medical school.) The AAP hopes to provide excellent role models in the field of PM&R to the participating students in this program.

This eight week experience will take place in July and August between the first and second year of medical school. MSSCE would like to attract students who hunger for clinical exposure and opportunities to examine patients.

Applicants: We are seeking applicants from all American allopathic and osteopathic medical schools. Applicants should submit their grades, MCAT scores, an essay and a letter of recommendation to the selection committee.

Sites: PM&R departments with strong educational programs for students, residents and fellows, and which show dedication to teaching endeavors are encouraged to apply. Each site will be required to designate a clinician-educator to serve as mentor/site director. The site must be able to provide excellent inpatient and outpatient clinical experiences for one or two students each summer.

Didactics: The program will develop a web-based curriculum, using the educational software, BlackboardTM, which will post relevant articles or chapters. Students will be required to read this material and review it with their site mentor weekly. The student will also receive hands-on training in clinical interviewing and physical exam skills.

Clinical Experiences: Each site will provide the student with a range of clinical experiences, to be approximately 50% inpatient and 50% outpatient. This could be set up by inpatient or outpatient months, or by mixing the experiences on a daily or weekly basis. The student should not only...
area(s) in which s/he is to rotate, but should be exposed to at least two or three different subspecialties (e.g., pediatric rehab, stroke, spinal cord, chronic pain.)

Simulation exercise: Each student will be required to spend a day in a wheelchair, or a similar simulated disability. The student will experience the physical and psychosocial barriers associated with this.

Mentorship: This program will foster a close relationship between the student and the site mentor. The mentor will be required to meet with the student 1:1 at least one hour each week. During this meeting, the mentor will de-brief the student on his/her clinical activities that week, and try to put those experiences in context. The mentor will also review the weekly readings from the website. Most importantly, the mentor will serve as a role model, emphasizing the professionalism that permeates the physiatric community.

Journal: Each student will be required to submit a journal at the end of the externship, which will detail their experiences. More importantly, it will serve as a conduit in which to distill how those experiences will influence their future careers.

GOALS
MSSCE will allow young, upcoming physicians to personally experience the excellence and importance of PM&R. By participating in the MSSCE program, students will learn the basic skills, attitudes, and behaviors required in a clinical setting and will have the opportunity to develop familiarity with the special needs of the physiatrist, both as an introduction to those disciplines and as a means of developing the skills necessary to recognize, treat and/or refer patients who present with conditions requiring the expertise of PM&R physicians.

MSSCE will also serve to enhance the visibility of the specialty of Physiatry in medical schools and potentially attract top students to the field of PM&R.

MSSCE is designed to be a mutually beneficial experience for both the medical student and the hosting site institution. The site institutions, in return for sponsoring a medical student, are provided the opportunity to establish relationships with highly motivated medical students who may be candidates for future residency programs or additional leadership training pathways.

REQUIREMENTS
The MSSCE program will entail an eight-week summer externship following the first year of medical school with an attached stipend of $4,000. Students will then submit an application for their externship detailing their top three site selections, desire to develop clinical skills in the field of PM&R and interest in participating in the program. Each student is expected to submit a case report for presentation at the next AAP Annual Meeting. The contribution by the hosting PM&R Department would be to agree to support the travel and registration of the trainee to the AAP Annual Meeting to allow students to present their case report, observe scientific paper presentations, network with residents and leaders in the field of PM&R, and to meet additional mentors.

EVALUATION
Evaluation and feedback would be achieved through: 1) a completed case report during the externship; 2) a written evaluation by the hosting PM&R Department; and 3) a completed questionnaire by the student detailing the experience. Each student would be expected to submit case report for presentation at the AAP Annual Meeting. Medical students participating in MSSCE would be followed to determine if they chose PM&R for residency and how their careers develop.

This program is generously supported by the Roosevelt Warm Springs Foundation. Please see the application forms for specific rules and requirements. We look forward to receiving your applications.