

# MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MSRI)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Goal of MSRI

- To provide additional intellectual challenge and nurture a spirit of inquiry, for students who desire to explore research beyond that provided in the medical curriculum
- To increase competitiveness for more specialized residencies by providing an organized advisory system for students to obtain peer-reviewed publications, and/or presentations (poster/talk) at recognized conferences

### Are there exceptions to the minimum WMPG of 85%?

- No. Research has shown that a WMPG of 85% and above correlates with a Step 1 score of 220. The extra effort of research (publications and conferences) ONLY pays off only at higher Step 1 scores.

### Why should I apply for MSRI?

- Being a part of MSRI will allow you to perform research and gain experience in writing papers and/or presenting at conferences
- Having research experience and, publications and/or presentations at conferences will enhance your competitiveness for residency
- One time reimbursement of \$1000 USD ONLY for 1<sup>st</sup> presenting author when accepted to present at a recognized conference. Letter of acceptance to present at conference, and copies of abstract, and poster are all required.

### What happens at the MSRI interviews?

- Students will be interviewed as a group by the departments in which they have a research interest
  - Students are required to rank **Two (2) Departments** in which they wish to perform research
  - Students can review, by following the hyperlinks, the directory of [faculty research interests](#) and [clinical and research faculty](#)
- Departments make the final decisions about acceptance, faculty mentor assignment, and project title
- Number of students accepted into each Dept depends on availability of projects and faculty mentors

### What is expected of me in MSRI?

- You, in conjunction with your mentor, will write a short research plan describing your proposed research
- You will be expected to actively participate in research and work hard to achieve the goal of 2 publications or presentations at a conference
- You are expected to produce, at the very least, a draft before the end of Term 3
- You are expected to put in as many hours and work necessary to complete your goal ( $\geq 4$  hours per week)
- You are expected to respond to emails from Dr Murray (MSRI – Director) and your faculty mentor in a timely manor
- You are expected to have a WMPG of 85.00% or above at the time of application and maintain this for the entire duration of your involvement in MSRI
- You are expected to inform your faculty mentor if you are experiencing any difficulties with the research, your academic performance or other relevant information without delay
- It is also expected of you to conduct yourself in a professional manner at all time
- Even if you have prior research experience, the discipline you are assigned to may require different skills and you are advised to consider suggestions made by your mentor with this in mind

## Who will I be working with in MSRI?

- You will be assigned to a faculty mentor in the Department with whom you interviewed. You may have the chance to work with more than one department and/or mentor

## How are MSRI projects assigned?

- Anatomy: Students will be assigned a topic by their faculty advisor
- Outside Anatomy: Students or student teams (5-6 students) will collaborate with your MSRI mentor (SGU or other University) to identify a research topic in their field of interest.

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## What can I expect from my MSRI faculty mentor?

- Your advisor will guide you in performing the research and advise you while you write the paper. This will include checking on methodology and editing drafts as well as suggest additions of references
- Your advisor will also advise you to the best ways to proceed in order to achieve a publication or conference presentation at the end of the process

## Other relevant information: for your preparation for the application and interview

### Research in Basic Sciences and Clinical years

- **MSRI: Basic Sciences** - Students are only accepted into the MSRI during **BPM2** of Basic Sciences. Students are asked to concentrate on projects upon entering the program in BMP 2, during Term 3, and during Term 5. Due to the intense course-load which exists during Term 4, students will not be expected to participate in research during this time.
- **MSRI: Clinical** - Research will continue during clinical terms, and may involve completion of previously started basic science topics with MSRI: Basic Science Faculty and fellows. It may also be in the form of clinical projects of the student's own devising alongside a Principle Investigator (PI) or mentor. The latter will still need to be submitted in proposal form before any real project begins, which must be approved by the mentor

### What type of research and publications are done in MSRI Basic Sciences?

- For examples of research done at SGU, a list of [school of medicine publications](#) and a list of [Graduate studies theses](#) are available online (just follow the links). There are also potential projects available in collaboration with [WINDREF](#) researchers and the Veterinary school

### Examples include, but are not limited to:

#### Hypothesis driven

- Unique projects and collaboration with outside experts
- Surveys on populations in Grenada
- Medical education
- Outreach or public health interventions

#### Case Reports

- Case Reports- unique or teaching points in cases. We have a BMJ case reports subscription until Dec 2016

#### Integrative- data driven/retroactive studies/ reviews

- Meta analysis of existing publications or databases
- Reviews- includes collaboration with outside experts

#### Application

- Use of methods, devices, technology to address medical/research topics (e.g. 3D printing, EEG, EKG, ultrasound, medical education, Google cardboard/stereoscopy, simulation lab, virtual reality)