

MEDICAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM (MRSP)

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CLINICIAN-SCIENTISTS



JACK YANOVSKI, M.D., PH.D.

Senior Investigator;
 Chief, Section on Growth
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 Shriver National Institute

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 (NICHD)

As mentors, we have a chance to model for MRSP Scholars how to think about a problem; design ethical experiments to answer specific questions; problem-solve the inevitable methodological issues; and analyze and interpret (but not over-interpret) the data. If we can impart how essential it is to be prepared to say, “I don’t know,” and also teach the skills that enable our trainees to follow that statement with, “...but I think I may know how to find out!” we offer a tremendous service to the future of clinical and translational research.



CYNTHIA DUNBAR, M.D.

Senior Investigator;
 Chief, Molecular Hematopoiesis Section; National Heart, Lung, and Blood

Institute (NHLBI)

For the past 25 years, I have been committed to the MRSP and its precursor programs as a mentor and speaker. I do this out of gratitude for my own NIH intramural training as a young physician. I had an incredible mentored research experience that absolutely resulted in my choice of translational research as a career and my success on that path. I want to help others receive the same type of opportunity that I received at such a critical point in my career. There is a crisis in the pipeline for physician-scientists, but in the current funding climate, physicians with little research experience are not likely to be offered lab positions outside of a funded program such as the MRSP.

“One MRSP Scholar joined our lab with a new idea that he wanted to pursue. He created a new questionnaire and wrote an amendment to an existing protocol for collecting pilot data, which he developed into a first author publication. Then he wrote an entirely new clinical protocol, organized a new multi-site extramural collaboration to enable the research, and collected most of the necessary data—all in one year!”

JACK YANOVSKI, M.D., PH.D.
 MRSP Mentor



NEHAL MEHTA, M.D.

Lasker Clinical Research Scholar; Chief, Inflammation and Cardiometabolic Diseases; National Heart,

Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

This is my fourth year being associated with the MRSP program. I have always enjoyed mentoring the next generation of student-scientists and the MRSP gives me a great way to do that. It lays the foundation for me to provide opportunities for talented medical students to engage in the process of scientific discovery. We have a lab, clinical and imaging program; MRSP Scholars can focus on whichever aspect aligns best with their interests. In fact, when we permit Scholars to discover and explore on their own, it has been exceptionally productive for all parties. My last three analytical projects have been largely led by MRSP Scholars, a testament to the program’s unique selection of exceptional talent.

CORE CURRICULUM

Scholars spend the majority of their program year conducting research, yet they also participate in the core curriculum, which includes:

- *Process of Discovery* lectures highlighting the continuum of research and discovery
- *Journal Club* presentations on bench research and clinical protocols
- Clinical patient teaching rounds
- *Great Teacher Breakfasts*
- NIH Clinical Center Grand Rounds
- Scholars’ year-end oral and poster presentations of their research to the MRSP leadership, NIH community and invited guests
- Graduate-level courses administered by the NIH Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences
- NIH courses such as: *Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research and Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research*

The interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of the MRSP offers Scholars an opportunity to build lasting relationships with their cohort and their mentors, who can provide lifelong career guidance.