

Mid-Atlantic AUA Pre-Medicine Undergraduate Enrichment Program

Goal: This yearly program is intended to create an innovative opportunity for first generation, lower income pre-medical students who are historically underrepresented in medicine. Mentoring support for participating students will focus on personal development, academic support, career guidance and research opportunities which are the foundational components of the program.

General Outline: Students will spend a minimum of 8 weeks (range, 8 – 10) in the summer hiatus after successful completion of their second year of undergraduate studies. A faculty member and resident mentor will be assigned to each student with the expectation of biweekly sessions to address each of the developmental aspects of the program (academic, personal, career and research) as they relate to the individual student. Each student will be a member of a clinical research project team with aims to result in abstract submission and publication and/or presentation at an academic congress or professional meeting. During the summer session, students will spend time shadowing physicians in their office practice, operating room, and other clinical settings to enhance the experience. The exact experience will be at the discretion of the host institution.

MA-AUA Proposed Support: The intent of engaging URM and promoting Diversity and Inclusiveness is an initiative that should be actionable. As an organization, we should take a leadership role in not only talking about this, but providing support for such activities to occur. To aid accessibility and encourage participation amongst academic and community programs, a stipend of \$5000 will be granted to each program to offset costs. The maximum annual contribution from the section will be \$30,000 thereby allowing up to 6 MA-AUA programs to participate annually. The distribution will be equitable and rotational allowing all programs to have access to support. Individual programs will have discretion to add to the section contributed fund if they choose to host additional students. The initial pilot investment will be \$30,000/year x 3 years = \$90,000 after which measurable endpoints will be evaluated for success and future funding discussions.

Selection of Students: Will be performed locally by each site through criteria outlined above. The section does not want to play an overly supervisory role in the selection of candidates and defer to the judgement of each local site. Funds will be paid out prior to the start of the summer program provided appropriate documentation is made from site and participant.

Financial Implications: One of the biggest criticisms of the section is that dollars are not necessarily put back into the section for the greater membership. This presents an opportunity to do so. The section is financially stable and the combination of virtual programming, prudent fiscal management, and stable costs places us in a position to extend this relatively small yearly commitment without long term concern for fiscal challenges. Furthermore, investment in this realm may allow a “proof of principle” thereby permitting philanthropic efforts at a sectional level to further grow this endeavor.

Measureable Endpoint: The MA-AUA requires that each receiving student and program should submit a report (1 page or less) at end of summer experience highlighting positive elements and challenges associated with the program. It is understandable that as a pilot experience, the structure may need to evolve to optimize the format and experience. The Board will review performance annually and specifically determine program success and future funding after year 2.

Timeline:

Final approval by Board of Directors, MA-AUA June 2021

Summer call and/or Webinar to MA-AUA Chairs/PD highlighting program and goals

Application solicitation Fall 2021 (including through annual meeting); Deadline December 31, 2021

Notification of Award to eligible programs (January 31, 2021)

Individual programs begin Spring/Summer 2022

Candidate and program reports due September 1, 2022

Board of Directors Year 1 De-brief MA-AUA meeting 2022 (New Orleans)