

# DISCOVER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AT UPSTATE!

## OFFICE OF RESEARCH FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS (ORMS)

Did you know that Upstate Medical University has a dedicated Office of Research for Medical Students to help you get involved in research?

Whether you're exploring your first project or looking to advance your academic profile, ORMS provides guidance, mentorship connections, fellowship opportunities and resources to support your research journey throughout medical school.

Visit the ORMS site to learn more:

[https://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/](https://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/)





*The Office of Research for Medical Students*

**Introduction to Research  
and  
the Office of Research for Medical  
Students (ORMS):**  
*Research Opportunities and Finding Funding*

*October 15, 2025  
11:00am, NAB 4414*

## **Dimitra Bourboulia, PhD**

Assistant Dean for UME and GME Research  
Faculty Director, Office of Research for Medical Students  
Associate Professor, Department of Urology  
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
[bourmpod@upstate.edu](mailto:bourmpod@upstate.edu)



**Office Email:** [Meds4Research@upstate.edu](mailto:Meds4Research@upstate.edu)

## **Katie Stuenzi, Project Manager, Office of the Dean**

[stuenzik@upstate.edu](mailto:stuenzik@upstate.edu)  
315-748-5678 (cell)



## **Barb Glover, Executive Assistant to the Dean**

[gloverb@upstate.edu](mailto:gloverb@upstate.edu)  
315-464-9723



**Website:** [http://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/index.php](http://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/index.php)





*The Office of Research for Medical Students*

Dr. Dimitra Bourboulia  
Katie Stuenzi  
Barbara Glover

Office Email: [Meds4Research@upstate.edu](mailto:Meds4Research@upstate.edu)

**ORMS Website:**

[https://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/index.php](https://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/index.php)





The Office of Research for Medical Students helps medical students explore their research interests and identify faculty mentors for research projects.

**Our mission:**

Foster Innovative and Interdisciplinary research among Undergraduate Medical and Graduate Trainees, through participation in Basic, Clinical and Translational research opportunities, summer programs and fellowships.

**Website:** [https://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/index.php](https://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/index.php)



## ONE-STOP SHOP

- **Informational**
  - Active projects that may be available at Upstate and externally
- **Mentorship**
  - Connect students with mentors and help you to build those relationships
- **Support and guidance**
  - Liaise with experts on publications, analysis of data
- **Identifying and pairing**
  - Through the portal, faculty and residents can share new or ongoing opportunities for students and students can submit research interest profile.

Website:

[http://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/index.php](http://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/index.php)

Norton College of Medicine | x +

upstate.edu/com/

2025 DAILY NIH - GRANTS - I... EMMA PERSONAL iThenticate | Folde... EIC - CSAC SRC Project UPSTATE VLK Report Center Log... View Reviewer Co... Commonsplus All Bookmarks

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY Norton College of Medicine

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Rural Medical Scholars Program  
MedPrep MS in Medical Technology  
MS in Physiology for MD Students  
Community Engaged Learning Program  
Continuing Medical Education  
Graduate Medical Education  
Gold Humanism Honor Society

The Alan ... The Norton College of Medicine

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS INCOMING STUDENTS CURRENT STUDENTS

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION REQUEST INFORMATION HOW TO APPLY CONTACT US

May I help you?

Hi there! I'm a chatbot here to answer your questions. What would you like to know?

w.upstate.edu/com/special\_opps/index.php  
27 English (United States) Accessibility: Investigate

Notes Comments 146%



# Brightspace – Research at Upstate



Content Assessments ▾ Communication ▾ Grades Quick Eval Class Progress Course Tools ▾ Brightspace Resources ▾

## Upstate Research for Medical Students

### Visual Table of Contents Widget ▾



M1. Getting  
Started



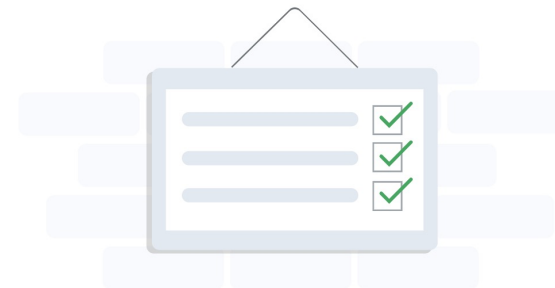
M2. Lab  
Techniques



M3. Biostatistics  
Resources



M4. Dissemination  
of Research



### You're all caught up!

You have no submissions that need evaluation. Check back later for new submissions.

[View all activities](#)

<https://mylearning.suny.edu/d2l/home/247267>

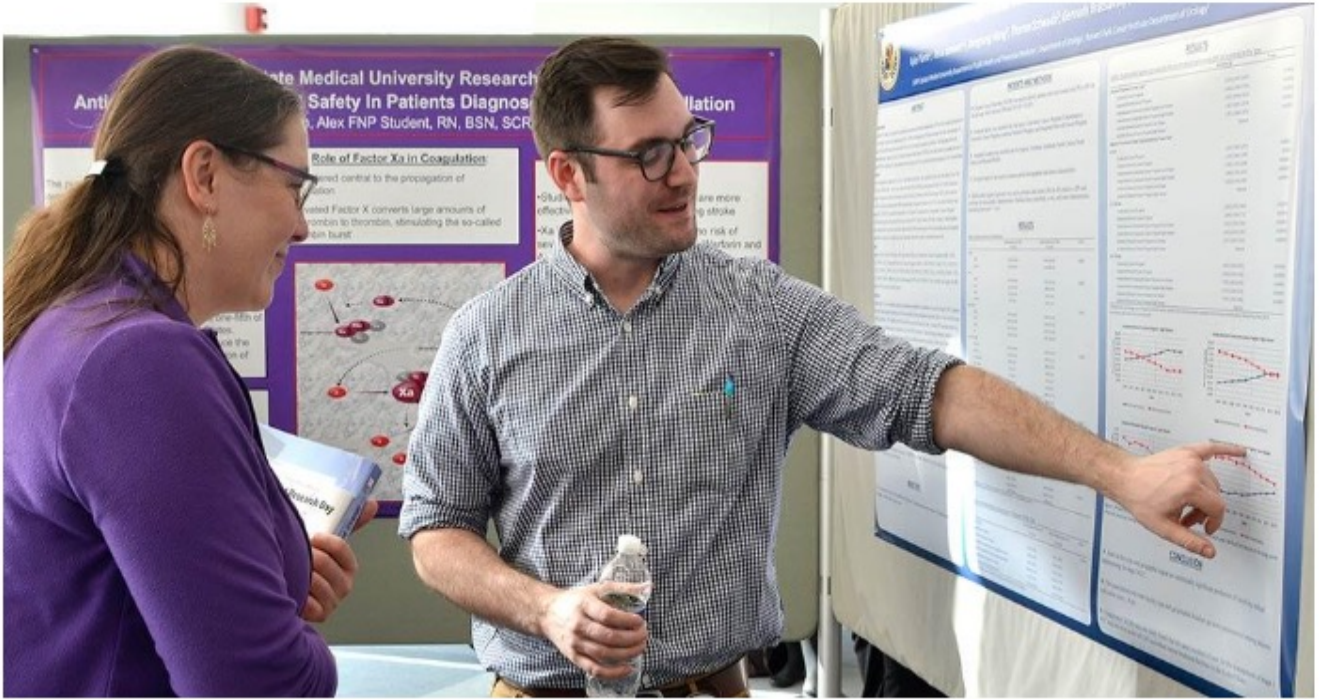
# ORMS medical student portal

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## Office of Research for Medical Students

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## Office of Research for Medical Students

## ORMS medical student portal

The screenshot displays the Upstate College of Medicine's Student Profile web application. The interface includes a top navigation bar with the Upstate logo and a search icon. Below this is a breadcrumb trail showing the user's location within the system.

### Navigation Sidebar

- For Admin:** View/Export Students, View/Export Projects by Students, View/Export Faculty Requests, View/Export Resident Requests, Project Summary Reports, Portal Summary Reports, Manage Admin Access, Portal Demo (PDF).
- For Student:** My Profile/Research Interests, My CV/ Statement, My Project, My Award/Fellowship, Home, Logout.

User information displayed below the sidebar: Dimitra Bourboulia, Monday June 28, 2021. A message prompts the user to log out once done.

### Main Content Area: Student Profile

**Student Profile Information**

*First Name :	*Last Name :	MI :
<input type="text" value="Dimitra"/>	<input type="text" value="Bourboulia"/>	<input type="text"/>

*Class Year :	*Email :
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="bourmpod@upstate.edu"/>

**Research Interest/Experience**

PI/Mentor :	Department :
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Type of research (check all that apply) :

- ☐ Basic
- ☐ Clinical
- ☐ Translational
- ☐ Epidemiological
- ☐ Computational
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Case Reports
- ☐ Quality Projects

Available time :

☐ Research during the summer break  
 ☐ Year round  
 ☐ Both

\*Research Area(s) of Interest :

### Right Panel: ORMS Student Research Portal

**Log Out**

**JM Students**  
 Log in using your Upstate Network Account's username and password.  
 If you've forgotten your password, call the IMT Help Desk at (315)464-4115.

**RMS Office Staff**  
 Log in using your Upstate Network Account's username and password to login.

**Login**

<input type="text" value="bourmpod"/>
<input type="password" value="*****"/>





For Student

[My Profile/Research Interests](#)

[My CV/ Statement](#)

[My Project](#)

[My Award/Fellowship](#)

[Home](#)

[Logout](#)

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[Wednesday September 30, 2020](#)

Please **logout** once you are done.  
Thanks!

## Student Research

This is the place for you to track your research activivites as a medical student.

You can do the followings:

- [View/Update your Student Info](#)
- [View/Update your CV and Personal Statement](#)
- [View/Update your Projects and Reports](#)
- [View/Update your Awards and Fellowships](#)



[COM ORMS Admin](#) > [Intranet](#)

For Student

[My Profile/Research Interests](#)

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Wednesday September 30, 2020

Please **logout** once you are done.  
Thanks!

## Add/Update Student Profile

### Student Profile Information

\*First Name :

BB

\*Last Name :

Edcommb

MI :

\*Class Year :

2022

\*Email :

aaaaaaaa@upstate.edu

### Research Interest/Experience

PI/Mentor :

db

Department :

urology

Type of research (check all that apply) :

- ☐ Basic
- ☐ Clinical
- ☐ Translational
- ☐ Epidemiological
- ☐ Computational
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Case Reports
- ☒ Quality Projects

Available time :

☐ Research during the summer break ☐ Year round ☐ Both

\*Research Area(s) of Interest :

dlkkl;fasdlk;jasdfkl;s

Submit

## Finding projects

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY Norton College of Medicine

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Office of Research for Medical Students

Plan Your Research

Research Opportunities

Medical Student Research Microcredential

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Faculty/Residents/Fellows Request for Student Researchers

### Plan Your Research

Many students pursue research at Upstate and off campus.

### Here are the main steps:

#### Exploration

1. Familiarize yourself with the research areas
2. Explore your own specific research interests

#### Project

1. Review the updated list of projects
2. Review both Upstate and off campus projects



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	DEPARTMENT/DIVISION	PROJECT TITLE
Fechtner, Robert D.	110 Ophthalmology	Clarifying the optimal application of SLT therapy (COAST)
Ganapathy, Preethi S.	110 Ophthalmology	Optic nerve head astrocyte sensitivity to glaucomatous insult
Ganapathy, Preethi S.	110 Ophthalmology	Optic nerve head cellular interactions in response to mechanical strain and fibrosis
Ganapathy, Preethi S.	110 Ophthalmology	Investigating mechanosensation in the glaucomatous optic nerve head
Herberg, Samuel A.	110 Ophthalmology	Role of cellular memory in glaucoma
Herberg, Samuel A.	110 Ophthalmology	The role of glaucomatous trabecular meshwork cues in driving Schlemm's canal cell mechano-pathobiology
Herberg, Samuel A.	110 Ophthalmology	TM/SC interface on a chip for mechanistic studies of outflow regulation
Knox, Barry E	110 Ophthalmology	Neuropeptide receptors regulating feeding in ticks
Martinez-Deluna, Reyna I	110 Ophthalmology	The role of extracellular matrix in axon routing
Martinez-Deluna, Reyna I	110 Ophthalmology	RPB Career Development Award - The role of B2- and y3- containing laminins in the development of intrinsically photosensitive ganglion cells
Martinez-Deluna, Reyna I	110 Ophthalmology	RPB Career Development Award - The role of B2- and y3- containing laminins in the development of intrinsically photosensitive ganglion cells
Solessio, Eduardo C	110 Ophthalmology	Contribution of rod photoreceptor inactivation kinetics to visual temporal contrast sensitivity in mesopic light
Spencer, William J.	110 Ophthalmology	Understanding ectosomes in retinal disease
Todd, Levi	110 Ophthalmology	Investigation of the neuroimmune axis in retinal regeneration
Viczian, Andrea S	110 Ophthalmology	Control of retinal angiogenesis by Tbx3
Viczian, Andrea S	110 Ophthalmology	Decoding Tbx3: unraveling its role in endothelial cell dynamics and vascular pathology
Viczian, Andrea S	110 Ophthalmology	The role of Tbx3 in retinal angiogenesis and eye disease
Arnold, Kiranya E.	110 Otolaryngology	ENT patient outcomes
Suryadevara, Amar C	110 Otolaryngology	The preservation of hearing function during cisplatin therapy using a telodendrimer nanocarrier in a mouse model
Jamaspishvili, Tamara	110 Pathology	Single-center retrospective clinical study of artificial intelligence (AI)-based protein assessment of three tumor suppressor genes (triple-TSG) for improved risk stratification and treatment management of advanced prostate cancer
Jamaspishvili, Tamara	110 Pathology	Studying the prognostic and predictive role of PD-L1 expression on digital pathology images using artificial intelligence in a pan-cancer retrospective patient cohort undergoing immunotherapy
Sperber, Steven	110 Pathology	Monitoring breast cancer patients at risk of relapse
Yousefi, Bardia	110 Pathology	Study of biological and radiographic biomarkers
Botash, Dr. Ann S	110 Pediatrics	Child Abuse Medical Provider
Comito, Melanie A.	110 Pediatrics	A feasibility and randomized phase 2/3 study of the VEGFR2/MET inhibitor cabozantinib



## Finding projects

Please note that the faculty listed here do not necessarily have openings for students at this time, but it is still worthwhile to contact them to express your interest.



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## Finding projects – Email new projects



Home / Flagged Emails / Advanced Search

**ATTN-** Research project - Dept of Medicine - Potential inflammatory functions of unorthodox HLA-DR positive cells in Rheumatoid Arthritis

Summarize ☺ ⏪ ⏩ ↺



✉ Dimitra Bourboulia <BourmpoD@upstate.edu>

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: med2029@list.upstate.edu



Download All • Preview All

Dear Students,

Please find attached a research project from the **Dept of Medicine**. If you are interested, you are welcome to reach out directly to **Dr. Christian Geier, MD** to discuss further. Be sure to include a statement of interest and your updated CV/resumé in your communication.

Best wishes,

Dimitra

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**Dimitra Bourboulia, PhD, FCSSI**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Urology**

Assistant Dean for UME and GME Research

## Finding projects



### Research Project

#### Project Title:

Potential inflammatory functions of unorthodox HLA-DR positive cells in Rheumatoid Arthritis

**Date of request:** 09/17/2025

#### Contact Information

**Full Name:** Christian Geier, MD  
**Title:** Clinical ASSNT PROFESSOR HS  
**Department:** Medicine  
**Phone number:** 315 464 2127  
**Office:** WH 7322  
**Email:** geierc@upstate.edu  
**Resident?** No

### Research Project

We study blood from clinic patients with rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases. Our main method is spectral flow cytometry to study bone marrow derived cells that arise in RA and other autoimmune diseases we believe are inflammatory. Students will be introduced to immunologic principles and principles of flow cytometry, can participate in patient facing and laboratory aspects. Previous motivated students have served as co-authors, presented their work on local and national meetings and won poster and fellowship awards.

**Research Location:** Weiskotten Hall, rm 7322





## Finding projects

**Tele-research/remote opportunity?** No

**Will it require students to be physically present in the research location:** Yes

**Type of research:** Translational

**Summer project?** No

**Long-term project:** Yes

**Availability required to work on your project(s):**

Average of 1-2 half days per week

**Prior experience or specific skills required to work on your project(s):**

Interest to study patients with autoimmune diseases is necessary.

Initiative and problem-solving skills are essential.

Prior laboratory experience with flow cytometry is helpful but not required.

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## Office of Research for Medical Students

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## Current Opportunities

### Research Opportunities

SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Medicine encourages Medical students to participate in a variety of research opportunities. Learn more about available programs in the list shown below:

- [SUNY Upstate Medical University COM Summer Research Fellowship](#)
- [Medical Student Travel Scholarships](#)
- [SUNY Upstate Medical University Scholarships and Grants](#)
- [SUNY Upstate Medical University Current and Ongoing Active Research Projects](#)
- [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Opportunities](#)
- [Other Fellowship and Award Opportunities](#)

### SUNY Upstate Medical University COM Summer Research Fellowship

An 8 week summer research program that takes place between years 1 and 2. This year, twelve fellowships will be awarded to students to conduct mentored summer research on campus.

# Current Opportunities: Travel Scholarships



## Medical Student Travel Scholarships

### 1. SUNY Upstate Medical University Medical Alumni Scholarships

- <https://medalumni.upstate.edu/student-scholarships>
- <https://medalumni.upstate.edu/reimbursement>

### 2. CAP Foundation Medical Student Travel Award

✚ The Medical Student Travel Award is intended to encourage and support medical students showing a strong interest in the specialty of pathology as a career choice.

- Next application cycle TBA

### 3. APA Psychiatry Travel Scholarship ✚

### 4. Other ORMS Travel Reimbursement Funds

## SUNY Upstate Medical University Scholarships and Grants

SUNY Upstate Medical University is pleased to offer a number of **internal scholarships and grants** to enrolled students. You will also find **an up-to-date table of outside scholarship opportunities**.

Should you have any questions about scholarship and grant opportunity, please contact the Admissions and Financial Aid Office at (315) 464-4570 or [admiss@upstate.edu](mailto:admiss@upstate.edu).

## SUNY Upstate Medical University Current and Ongoing Active Research Projects

Please see [Plan Your Research](#) for the current list of active projects available at Upstate

## Office of Research for Medical Students

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## Medical Student Research Travel Reimbursement Guidelines

### We are now accepting applications for 2025-26

Medical students may be eligible for up to **\$500** in reimbursement for travel to reputable conferences where they are **first author** and the **presenter** of an accepted **podium or poster presentation**.



In addition to applying through **ORMS**, students must also apply for separate funding from the **Medical Alumni Foundation** (up to \$300/year) which can be found [here](#) .

To request ORMS funding, email [meds4research@upstate.edu](mailto:meds4research@upstate.edu) with:

- Acceptance email from the conference
- Abstract and author list
- Estimated travel costs
- Other funding sources (travel awards, etc.)
- Confirmation you'll also apply to the Medical Alumni Foundation
- Note: Your PI or department may provide support—ask early

#### Cost-saving tips:

- Share accommodations with others attending
- Ask organizers about waived fees for students
- Apply for travel awards or society funding (ask your PI)

Once approved, submit reimbursement **after the conference** using [The Upstate Foundation, Inc. Travel Expense Voucher](#) , with **original receipts** and proof of acceptance. Please find [Details on our Travel Guide here](#) .

Funding is **limited** and subject to **eligibility and availability**.

Questions? Contact:

**Katie Stuenzi** – [stuenzik@upstate.edu](mailto:stuenzik@upstate.edu)

**Dr. Dimitra Bourboulia** – [BourmpoD@upstate.edu](mailto:BourmpoD@upstate.edu)

**Barb Glover** – [gloverb@upstate.edu](mailto:gloverb@upstate.edu)

[https://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/travel-reimbursement.php](https://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/travel-reimbursement.php)





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Student Researchers

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Office of Research for Medical Students is Upstate Medical University's student research one-stop shop. We provide **information** about active research projects available to students; **mentorship** in connecting students to faculty mentors and in how to build mentor relationships; we **identifying and match** students to projects; and **provide support and guidance** for all things research-related: liaise with experts on publication, analysis of data, lab practices, and more.

Below some of the most common questions student researchers have when exploring research opportunities and offerings. Please contact the Office of Research for Medical Students with any questions, clarifications or to meet with Dr. Dimitra Bourboulia.

Expand all

How to Contact The Office of Research for Medical Students



What Research Opportunities are Available to Students?



Where can I find More Information About Research Opportunities?



Where can I do Research?



How do I find a Mentor?



Can I get paid to do Research?



Can I get credits for Research?



Does the Office of Research for Medical Students COVER publication fees for medical students?



## Office of Research for Medical Students

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Request for Student Researchers](#)

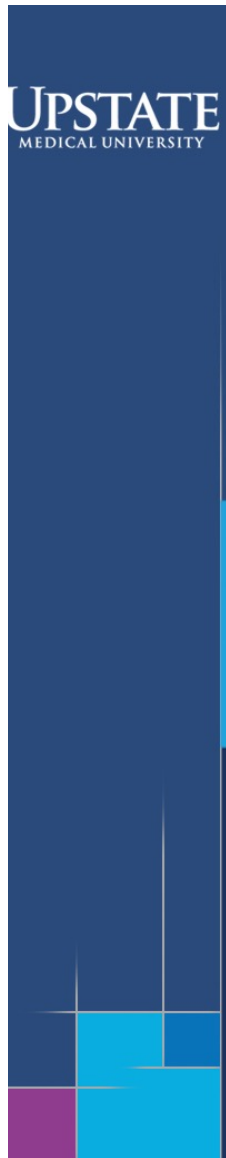
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[Expand all](#)[How to Contact The Office of Research for Medical Students](#)[What Research Opportunities are Available to Students?](#)[Where can I find More Information About Research Opportunities?](#)

# Microcredential in medical student research

A poster for the Medical Student Research Micro-Credential. It has a blue background with white snowflakes and a snow-covered evergreen tree. A white box at the top says "NEW MICRO-CREDENTIAL!". Below it, the title "Medical Student Research Micro-Credential" is followed by a paragraph about the purpose, a paragraph about eligibility, and a paragraph about duration. At the bottom is a URL.

**NEW MICRO-CREDENTIAL!**

**Medical Student Research Micro-Credential**

The purpose of the Medical Student Research Micro-credential is to recognize medical students who gain research experience or participate in research with a faculty member during medical school. Students are expected to produce a final report summarizing their research. Students are required to produce a scholarly work and must apply to present their research at an annual institutional, national, or international meeting.

**Eligibility:** This microcredential is not offered to medical students who are concurrently enrolled in a dual degree that requires doing research as part of completing the second degree (e.g. MD/PhD).

**Duration:** Minimum time required is 240 hours of effort. This includes research activities the student will undertake that are essential for meaningful and successful completions or their research project including hands-on research as well as participation in departmental, mentor-student meetings, or courses. We would expect an average of 40 hours per week (min 6 weeks of continuous research) up to an average minimum effort of 4 hours per week for 12 months during the period of 1-2 years).

[https://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/medical-student-research-microcredential.php](https://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/medical-student-research-microcredential.php)

## RECOGNIZE PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

**53 students have been awarded since June 2022**

### Required Application Materials

- Updated CV
  - Research summary or report
  - Scholarly work detailed (publications, presentations etc) include PDFs of posters and links to publications
  - Registrar transcript with grade and/or PI attestation of hours and level of participation
  - Letter of recommendation from at least one research mentor
  - Statement of your future plans
- How to apply: Apply and upload supporting documents on InfoReady using this link

<https://upstate.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1866705>

# Microcredential in Medical Student Research

- Eligibility
    - Medical students who complete at least 240 hours of research during medical school
    - Students' effort and contribution must be significant as attested to by their research mentor(s)
    - At least **one** research mentor MUST be an Upstate faculty member
    - Project must result in scholarly work that is submitted for presentation or publication
    - Students enrolled in dual degree programs are not eligible
- [https://www.upstate.edu/com/special\\_opps/orms/medical-student-research-microcredential.php](https://www.upstate.edu/com/special_opps/orms/medical-student-research-microcredential.php)



# Research Compliance

## Research Compliance

Assures that all research conducted at Upstate and/or by faculty of Upstate involving human subjects, laboratory animals, radiation, toxic and infectious agents, human tissues and recombinant DNA complies with governmental regulations and institutional policies.

## Compliance Committees

- IRB Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects
- QAIP Quality Assessment & Improvement Program for Human Subjects Research
- SCRO Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee
- IBC Bio-Safety Committee



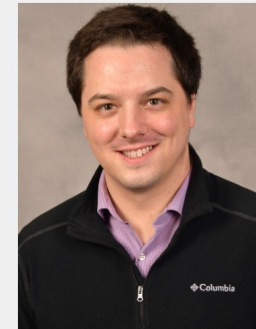
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# *EPIC and Training*

Amber Gray  
UME Program Manager

[GrayAm@upstate.edu](mailto:GrayAm@upstate.edu)

# *Unique Electives for Research*

**Susan Anderson**

Undergraduate Medical Education Office  
*anderssu@upstate.edu*

# Unique Elective info

- Unique elective credit must be requested at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the activity, no retroactive credits are available
- 1 credit = 40 hours of work
- Typically students request 2-4 credits for a research unique elective
- A maximum of 6 of the required credits may be taken in the pre-clinical years **and count** toward fulfilling graduation requirements.
- Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to take 2 electives at the same time unless one is a concurrent elective.



# ***Clinical Trials Research***

**Amanda Putnick Sly, MS, CIP**  
*Director of Clinical Trials Office*

[slya@upstate.edu](mailto:slya@upstate.edu)

## Clinical Research Initiatives Office

The Clinical Research Initiatives Office serves as the first point of contact for clinical faculty interested in developing a research program or expanding their current research interests, including providing information on the clinical research infrastructure and on-campus centralized resources.



**Amanda Putnick Sly, MS, CIP**

*Director of Clinical Trials Office*

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**Medgine Mede, MBA**

*Administrative Assistant to Director of Clinical Trials and Director of Research Development*

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# AOA Research committee

**Genevieve McCormack (mccormag@upstate.edu)**

**Ahmad Wady (wadya@upstate.edu)**

**Sara Solasz (solaszs@upstate.edu)**

**Anas Abbas (abbasa@upstate.edu)**

# AOA Research series

- Fourth year AOA students are going to hold a Zoom seminar series to help Upstate MS1/MS2 navigate doing research in medical school
- Lecture topics include:
  - *Why Bother?* The Real Reasons to Do Research in Med School
  - *Finding A Research Mentor*
  - *Designing Your First Research Project*
  - *Creating a Project Timeline* That Leads To Results
  - *Searching Smarter, Not Harder:* The Med Student's Guide to Literature Reviews
  - *Stats Without Fear:* Introduction to Data Analysis
  - *How to Present Your Research:* Abstracts & Presentations
  - *Turning Abstracts into Manuscripts*
  - *Keep The Momentum:* Staying Involved In Research
- **Dates to be announced soon!**



# Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship

- Financial support for medical students to conduct research over a 2-12 months period (\$7,000 award and \$1,000 travel expense)
- Eligibility: MS1 and MS2 students who do not currently hold a PhD and are enrolled in classes
- Application:
  - Project summary and bibliography
  - Student CV
  - Letter of support from research mentor
  - Faculty mentor biographical sketch
  - Letter of endorsement from AOA councilor
  - Letter of support from Dean
- Due Date: January 20, 2026

MED2029 Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship

Summarize ☺ ↶ ↷

Friday, September 5, 2025 at 1:49 PM



○ MED2029 <med2029-bounces@lists.upstate.edu> on behalf of

● Lori Ferguson <FergusoL@upstate.edu>

To: med2028@lists.upstate.edu; med2029@lists.upstate.edu; Cc: Peter Fioramonti; Patricia A. Gooden



Carolyn L. Kuckein S...  
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Download All • Preview All

This message is flagged for follow up.

Mark Complete

Dear Upstate Medical Students,

I would like to remind you of the **Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship**, a nationally competitive program, open to first- and second-year medical students. Each medical school may nominate only one student, and Upstate will select a single proposal to advance for national review.

Applications must be submitted to the Upstate AQA Chapter Student Research Committee, directed to **Dr. Lynn Cleary with a copy to Patty Gooden, by January 5, 2026**. The final application must then be submitted online to the national AQA office by **January 20, 2026**, with award announcements scheduled for **May 1, 2026**.

Full details on eligibility, proposal requirements, and the application process are included in the attached poster and can also be found on the [AQA website](#).

Best regards,

**Peter J. Fioramonti**

*President, AQA Gamma Chapter at Upstate  
SUNY Upstate NCOM Class of 2026*

# Final thoughts

- Research seminar dates will be announced soon
- If you are interested in applying for the Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship, please start early and reach out for assistance
- Good luck with studying!



# **ORMS Summer Research Fellowship**





# Summer Research Fellowship

## **Purpose & Expectations:**

- Offers summer research experience for medical students
- Requirements:
  - Attend orientation
  - Submit evaluation, final report, and research poster
  - Present at Charles R. Ross Memorial Student Research Day and a relevant conference
  - Acknowledge fellowship in publications and presentations

## **Eligibility:**

- Open to MS1 and MPH students interested in research
- Completion of CITI and FCOI courses required
- 8-week fellowship (up to 2 weeks can start early with approval)

## **Summer Research Fellowship Awards:**

- \$3,500 stipend per fellow
- 4 of 12 awards for cancer-related research
- Cannot be used for materials or other expenses

For details, visit: [Summer Fellowship Info](#)



# Summer Research Fellowship Application Outline

## **Application Requirements:**

- Student Summer Research Application Cover Sheet
- Student's letter describing previous research experience and its relevance to career development
- Research proposal (1-2 pages) in collaboration with a faculty mentor, including:
  - Research aims, significance, methods, and data analysis plan
  - Fit within the mentor's larger research program
  - Optionally include citations
- Student's curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
- Faculty mentor's letter, covering:
  - Current research activities and funding sources
  - Statement of available funds for research materials and supplies
  - Summer 2026 supervision plan
  - Training opportunities for the student (techniques, presentations, etc.)
  - IRB/IBC approvals for projects involving human/animal subjects, radiation, or biohazards
- Faculty mentor's NIH Biosketch or CV

# Summer Fellowship PROJECTS 2019

Fellow	Mentor	Type of Research	Department	Project
Alyssa Purdy;	Andrea Shaw	Epidemiological/Clinical	Medicine/Global Health	An Evaluation of the Utilization of GeneXpert for Tuberculosis Diagnosis
Benjamin (Ben) Jung;	William Brunken Reyna Martiez-DeLuna	Basic	Ophthalmology	The role of b2- and g3-containing laminins in development of the intrinsically photosensitive ganglion cell mosaic array
Benjamin (Ben) Kaminski;	Peter Calvert	Basic	Ophthalmology	Quantifying Rod Photoreceptor Disc Membrane Disorganization Through Analysis of Rhodopsin Polarity
Brandon Zaffuto;	Ruth Weinstock	Epidemiological/Clinical	Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism	Glycemic Outcomes after Identification of Depression in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes
Casey Mohrien;	Andrea Shaw	Epidemiological/Clinical	Medicine/Global Health	Analysis of Feto-Infant Mortality in the Seme and Kisumu West Sub- Counties of Kisumu County, Kenya
Dominic Facciponte;	Michael Costanza	Clinical	Surgery, Vascular and Endovascular	Identifying risk factors that determine which dialysis patients are better served with an arteriovenous graft versus an arteriovenous fistula on long- term hemodialysis
Jaimie Rogner;	Ma-Li Wong	Basic	Psychiatry	Caspase 1 Modulation of S100A10/P11 Actions in Depression
Jimin Lee;	Christopher Prendergast	Clinical	Pediatrics	Congenital Heart Disease continuation of care and care improvement
Julian Sit;	Mehdi Mollapour	Basic	Urology	Impact of FNIP co-chaperones on Hsp90 chaperone function and drug binding in kidney cancer
Katherine Schumacher;	Timothy (Tim) Damrom	Clinical/Translational	Orthopedics	Four Quadrant Triage Management of Low-Grade Hyaline Cartilage Tumors
Mahin Choudhury;	Eduardo Solessio	Basic	Ophthalmology	Characterizing the retinal structure and function in the GNAT2Ko mouse model of achromatpsia
Megan Tatusko;	Kenneth Mann	Clinical	Orthopedics	Alterations in Cement-Bone Interface Morphology Following Joint Replacement in 9 month old rats
Neesha Desai;	Donna Osterhout	Clinical/Translational	Cell and Developmental Biology	Evaluation of cABC treatment on Oligodendroglia in Chronic SCI

# Summer Fellowship PROJECTS 2020

Fellow Name	Mentor	Type of Research	Department	Project Title
Mark Derbyshire;	Andrea Viczian	Basic	Ophthalmology & Visual Science	Genetic Network Regulating Eye Formation
Elena Kleinhenz;	Frank Middleton	Basic	Neuroscience & Physiology	Genetic and epigenetic predictors of seizures in idiopathic and syndromic autism spectrum disorder and developmental delay
Andrew Pivovar;	Amirfarbod Yazdanyar	Basic	Ophthalmology & Visual Science	Characterization of Phospholipid Transfer Protein (PLTP) effects on lipoprotein metabolism in human Retinal Pigment Epithelium (RPE) cells
Robert She;	Katsuhiro Kobayashi	Clinical	Radiology	Identification of Risk Factors associated with Infections of Chemotherapy Chest Ports
Sruti Akula;	Andrea Viczian	Basic/imaging	Ophthalmology & Visual Science	Genetic Network Regulating Eye Formation
Andrew Goldmann;	Thomas Sanford	Computational/AI	Urology	Web Accessible AI for Prostate Cancer Risk Assessment
Kathryn Skolnick;	Amy Caruso Brown	Epidemiological	Bioethics And Humanities	Assessing the Need for a Pediatric Cancer Predisposition Program at Upstate
Hannah Yoo;	Samuel Herberg	Basic	Ophthalmology & Visual Science	Investigation of 3D Mechanotransduction using a Trabecular Meshwork Hydrogel
Michelle Chen;	Thomas Sanford	Computational/AI	Urology	Quantifying Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes in Renal Cell Carcinoma Utilizing Artificial-Intelligence Trained Deep Learning Models
John Yablonski;	Preethi Ganapathy	Basic	Ophthalmology & Visual Science	Investigating the role of optic nerve head astrocyte (ONHA) Piezo1 activity in extra cellular matric stiffening in response to mechanical strain
Kiersten Kennedy;	Donna Osterhout	Basic	Cell & Developmental Biology	The Effect of Microglia on Remyelination after Spinal Cord Injury
Ahmed Souid;	Lawrence Chin	Basic/translational	Director of Gamma Knife Center Medical Director of Neuro Oncology Program	An Analysis of Transcriptional Regulation in the Four GBM Molecular Subtypes

# Summer Fellowship PROJECTS 2021

Fellow Name	Mentor	Department	Type of Research	Project Title
Austin Wong;	Andrea Viczian	Ophthalmology & Visual Science	Basic	Quantifying the role of transcription factor Tbx3 during retinal vascular formation
Jasleen Sidhu;	Aamer Imdad	Pediatrics - GI Clinic	Computational/clinical	Zinc supplementation for preventing mortality, morbidity, and growth failure in children aged 6 months to 12 years of age
Anjlee Panjwani;	David Auerbach	Pharmacology	Basic/translational	Cardiac ECG Markers for a High-Risk of Cardiac-Mediated Sudden Death in Epilepsy
Maxwell Charlat;	Abirami Sivapiragasam	Div Hematology-Oncology - Cancer Ctr	Clinical/Computational	Use of Cryotherapy for Chemotherapy Induced Peripheral Neuropathy. A Single Institutional Experience.
Zachariah Wentlent;	Rajin Shahriar	Orthopedic Surgery	Epidemiological	Epidemiology of musculoskeletal firearm-related injuries in children
Anindita Rajasekaran;	Francesca Pignoni	Ophthalmology; Neuroscience and Physiology	Basic	Protein-protein interactions underlying SIX1 function in human disease
Margaret Lovier;	Roger Wong	Public Health and Prev Medicine - Physical Med & Rehabilitation	Computational/clinical	Influence of Dementia on COVID-19 Diagnosis and Adherence to Public Health Practices
Joseph Settineri ;	Stewart Loh	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Basic	Refining the Efficacy of p53 Rescuing Zinc Metallochaperone Drugs by Determining Optimal Delivery Methods and Pharmacodynamics
Danielle Pitter;	Donna Osterhout	Cell & Developmental Biology	Basic	Tracking Neuronal Regeneration after Spinal Cord Injury_
Katrina Stevens;	Paul Klawitter	Emergency Department	Epidemiological	COVID19 Prevalence in Outdoor Professionals during the 2020 Pandemic
Adam Hatala;	Amar Suryadevara	Otolaryngology-Facial Plastic Surgery	Computational/clinical	Comparing 'in charge' Time for surgical Residents at Outpatient Surgery Centers and Hospital Operating Rooms
Adeenah Ahmed;	Ma-Li Wong	Psychiatry	Basic	Chronic stress and splice variants



# Summer Fellowship PROJECTS 2023

STUDENT/yes	PI	DEPARTMENT	TITLE
DERRICK SPENCER	JASON HORTON	Orthopedic surgery	Establishment of a microfluidic platform to model drug-induced liver injury by chemotherapy drugs
MARGARET LOVIER	LI-RU ZHAO	Neurosurgery/neuroscience and Phys	Exploring a supportive enriched environment on severe TBI recovery
JONATHAN BEARDEN	ALINA BASNET	Medicine/Medical Oncology	Studying tumor immune microenvironment (TIME) and identifying predictive biomarkers in relation to platinum-based chemotherapy and immunotherapy in metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancers
KAVIPRIYA KOVAI PALANIVEL	SAMUEL HERBERG	Ophthalmology and Visual sciences	The role of mechanical stretch on trabecular meshwork cell chromatin accessibility and epigenetic modifications
MICHAEL LEYDERMAN	MEHDI MOLLAPOUR	Urology	Targeting HDAC6 in Angiomyolipoma
ANDREW WILLIAMS	MARIANO VIAPIANO	Neuroscience and Physiology- Basic	Analysis of the neuroendocrine factor VGF as a biomarker and therapeutic target in glioblastoma
ALEXANDRA STONE	LESZEK KOTULA	Urology	Evaluation of AR inhibitors in ABI1 driven Bca
KEVIN THOMAS	STEWART LOH	BIOCHEMISTRY - Basic	Design of nanobody-based biosensors for detections of vacuolar ATPase isoforms in human pathologies
CARA SMITH	LESZEK KOTULA	Urology	Sensitivity of ABI1/PTEN KO Spheroids to enzalutimide
ALEX BLOMFIELD	SUSAMA VERMA	Spinal Cord injury and Disorders	Effects of LED photobiomodulation in patients with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with concurrent Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)
NIKITA SHAH	ANDREA VICZIAN	Ophthalmology and Visual sciences	Control of retinal angiogenesis by Tbx3
RACHEL L CHERNET	TAMARA JAMASPISHVILLI	Pathology	Studying the prognostic and predictive role of PD-L1 expression on digital images using artificial intelligence in a pan-cancer retrospective patient cohort undergoing immunotherapy
SEAN CONNOLLY	EDUARDO SOLESSIO	Ophthalmology and Visual sciences	Evaluate rod function in mesopic lights using ERG techniques
AVREE KESTAY	DONNA OSTERHOUT	Cell and Developmental Biology - Basic	Effect of neurotrophins on Microglial Populations after Spinal Cord Injury
KATHERINE NARVAEZ MENA	RACHEL FABI	Bioethics and Humanities	Postpartum health care receipt among immigrant women in the United States
PETER FIORAMONTI	HARISH BABU	Neurological surgery	Identification of preoperative, perioperative and postoperative factors associated with improved patient outcomes following glioblastoma resection

CANCER PROJECT

8 OUT OF 16

# Summer Fellowship PROJECTS 2024

STUDENT FIRST	STUDENT LAST	PI MENTOR	DEPARTMENT	PROJECT TITLE
Oyeolamide	Oyedirán	Leszek Kotula, MD. / Ph.D.	<b>Urology</b>	ABI1 Dependent Gene Expression under Enzalutamide Resistance.
Stephanie	Ijomah	Reyna I. Martínez-De Luna	<b>Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences</b>	The role of $\beta 2$ laminins in optic chiasm architecture
Mackenzie	Bennett	Dr. Tamara Jamaspishvili	<b>PATHOLOGY</b>	Single-center retrospective clinical study of artificial intelligence (AI)-based protein assessment of three tumor suppressor genes ("triple-TSG") for improved risk stratification and treatment management of advanced prostate cancer
Nyaari	Kothiya	Dr. William Spencer	<b>Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences</b>	Proteomic Analysis of Photoreceptor Disc Proteins in Mouse Rods and Cones
Nikhita	Kumar	Dr. Levi Todd	<b>Ophthalmology and Visual sciences</b>	Targeting Glia to prevent the degeneration of neurons to preserve sight
Andrew	Kareeparampil	Michaela Kollisch-Singule, MD	<b>General Surgery</b>	Novel Therapeutic Approach for Severe ARDS with a Potent Pharmacologic Allosteric Hemoglobin Modifier
Janet	Nguyen	Dr. Matthew Sullivan	<b>Orthopedic Trauma Service</b>	Outcomes on isolated tibial tubercle avulsion fractures
Kirsten	Krick	Donna Osterhout, PhD	<b>Cell and Developmental Biology</b>	Development of Cell Seeded Grafts for Nerve Repair
Nelson	Lin	Juntao Luo	<b>Department of Pharmacology, Surgery (joint), Microbiology &amp; Immunology (joint)</b>	Novel intrapulmonary formulation for both infection and inflammation control in COPD
Richmond	Mensah	Harish Babu, MD/PhD	<b>Medicine, Neurosurgery</b>	Comparing Clinical Outcomes in CNS Lymphoma between resection and Biopsy
Theresa	Chung	Nayla Khoury	<b>Psychiatry</b>	Trauma-adapted Yoga for Upstate Healthcare Workers

# Summer Fellowship PROJECTS 2025

STUDENT FIRST	STUDENT LAST	PI MENTOR	DEPARTMENT	PROJECT TITLE
Trinity	Neal	Lesile Jade Archuleta	Obstretic and Gynecology	Assessing the incidence and role of food insecurity as a risk factor in the pre-operative population
Wai	Tung	Mehdi Mollapour	Urology	Therapeutic potential of targeting PGAM5 in clear cell renal carcinoma
Sejoon	Jun	Samuel Herberg	Ophthalmology and visual sciences	Investigating the Migratory Behavior of Trabecular Meshwork and Schlemm's canal cells in a Novel co-culture Hydrogel Model
John	Dempsey	Harish Babu	Neurosurgery, Neuroscience and Physiology	Uncovering the impact of social drivers of health on outcomes in adults with high-grade brain tumors
Izzy	Salama	Samuel Herberg	Ophthalmology and visual sciences	Investigating the diverging nuclear architecture in trabecular meshwork cells from segmental flow regions
Casey	Dang	Justin Ryan	Pharmacology	Development of an ECG-Based Machine Learning Algorithm for Assessing Respiratory Function from non-standard ECG leads
Nicholas	Mecca	William Spencer	Ophthalmology and visual sciences	investigating the antigenic targets of anti-retinal auto-antibodies in the setting of a retinal degeneration
Gianna	DeRoberts	Dr. Amar Suryadevara	Otolaryngology-Facial Plastic Surgery	Clinical Course of Anxiety and Depression Post Functional Rhinoplasty
Yatin	Zirath	Koh-Eun Narm	Internal medicine	The Role of Atrial Fibrillation as a Hospital Complication: A Retrospective Review
Brian	Walker	William G. Kerr	Microbiology and Immunology, Pediatrics	Analysis of the Role that SHIP2 plays in human neuronal survival and function
Andrew	Victoria	Li-Ru Zhao	Neurosurgery, Neuroscience and Physiology	defining how bone marrow-derived monocytes/macrophages contribute to SCF+G-CSF treatment-enhanced neurostructural regeneration in the chronic phase of severe TBI
Niitiggya	Taneja	Qinghe Meng	Surgery	Effects of Exosomes derived from Mesenchymal Stem Cells on Acute Lung Injury
Carson	Hobler	Paul Klawitter	Emergency Medicine	The impact of high stakes moments on ACL injury in the National Football League



# 2025-2026 Summer Research Fellowship Program

Important Fellowship Dates	
Writing the 2025 Fellowship Application Webinar	Wednesday, December 3rd at 12 PM 2025
Call for Applications	Friday, December 12 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Applications Due	Friday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> 2026
Students Informed of Decisions	Friday, April 3rd 2026
Fellowship 8-wk Start and End Dates Between May-Aug	Determined by you and your mentor



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**March 4<sup>th</sup> 2026**

***Charles Ross Memorial Student Research Day***  
***1:00 PM - 5:30 PM***

- Hosted by the College of Graduate Studies
- The event includes student researchers in all four colleges
- Includes oral presentations, a keynote address and concludes with a poster session

<https://www.upstate.edu/grad/students/srd/index.php>