



Council of  
Emergency Medicine  
Residency Directors

### **2018 MERC at CORD Scholars Program**

1. This program is a professional development opportunity for those Emergency Physicians who are serious about taking the next step in developing the tools/skills necessary to contribute to education research. As such, it is a substantive commitment of time and energy over the coming year.
  - Our Pre-course survey of the participants must be completed (e.g. experience, opinions, areas of interest, etc) and an up-to-date CV for each must be submitted
  - It is important that each candidate understand the commitment involved in successfully completing this program and agree that they realistically believe that they can participate in each phase of the course over the coming year. We recommend that your chair be made aware of this commitment so he/she can support you in your efforts. The commitment you are about to make includes.....
    - ✓ Two workshops each as a pre-meeting before the CORD Academic Assembly, SAEM Annual Meeting and ACEP Scientific Assembly for a total of 6 workshops.
    - ✓ Participation and substantial contribution to a mentored, multi-institutional education research project. This project is estimated to take 1-2 years to complete.
    - ✓ Interested parties not enrolled in the program are not allowed to participate in the MERC at CORD mentored medical education research project, be included on educational emails from the MERC Committee or do the work on the project for the participants
      - It is ok to get assistance from workshop directors or other resources when it comes to literature searches, statistics, etc but not for junior faculty or residents to do the work assigned to the participant.
    - ✓ The intention of the MERC at CORD Scholars Program is to engage candidates who are committed to making the most of this opportunity and completing the program.
      - It is understood that there will occasionally be unavoidable circumstances that may prevent participants from making all the workshops in a given year with their class. These may be made up at another time such as national/regional AAMC meetings or freestanding MERC workshops at CORD.
      - Should participants miss 1 or more workshops, the MERC Committee (i.e. MERC Director plus mentors) will determine whether this prevents meaningful participation in the project and completion of the program.

### **2. The 2018 CORD Academic Assembly (April 22-25, 2018) and the first set of workshops.**

- April 21, 2017 (pre-day): Workshops on day one
  - ✓ 8:00AM to 12:00PM: The class will gather to discuss research ideas of interest and break into groups with an assigned mentor/"Scholar" based on common areas of interest with 4-7 participants in each.

- ✓ 8:00AM-Noon: Workshop #1
  - Formulating Research Questions & Designing Studies
- ✓ 1:00PM to 5:00PM: Workshop #2
  - Searching & Evaluating the Medical Education Literature (a laptop is required of each participant)

When there are breakout sessions during the workshops, the participants will break into their corresponding project groups developed at first session this morning (7:00AM). This will allow each individual project group to use what is being taught to develop their project

- Directed by MERC at CORD Mentor or graduating program “Scholar”
- ✓ Third workshop (April 22 at 8:45AM): Not a required aspect of the MERC at CORD Scholars Program but interested participants are encouraged to attend.
- By the time participants leave the Academic Assembly they should have;
  - ✓ A viable research question that is appropriate in the context of this program. (The approval of your designated mentor is required)
    - It is important that the project be reasonable, relatively straight forward and able to complete within 1-2 years from initiation.
  - ✓ Organization for project member communication and regular progress reporting should be established
    - Timeline for regular conference calls (should be monthly) and WIKI or listserv communication for each project group
    - A project leader should be selected and everyone should have a role in the project. Assignments should be made at each call with the expectation that each member will report on their progress at the time of the call. We would like to create a culture where the group expects a report from everyone and each participant feels that they need to hold up their end of the assigned responsibilities.
    - A larger goal of expectations for progress made by the SAEM Annual Meeting in June should be estimated.
  - ✓ The order of authorship should be determined should the project be published including whether the mentor will be considered an author.
  - ✓ This organization requirement is essential for the success of the project. Your group may be able to complete this planning by the end of the day on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. If not, we recommend that you schedule a group meeting for later in the CORD Academic Assembly to finalize these plans.

### 3. **The 2018 SAEM Annual Meeting (May 15-18, 2018).**

- Two workshops on the pre-conference day
  - ✓ Hypothesis Driven Research
  - ✓ Questionnaire Design and Survey Research
- May 15, 2018: Evening work session
  - ✓ Two hour work session discussing pre-assigned articles on the changing landscape of role of education as a scholarly pursuit.
    - How to get promoted
    - How to build value

- How to build the infrastructure to support the efforts of education researchers within the specialty
  - Can be run by MERC at CORD Mentor or graduating program “Scholar”
  - Results should be written up and submitted to MERC Committee
- Each project group should meet to discuss their progress to date, problem solve issues that have developed and plans for the future at some prearranged time during the SAEM meeting

**4. The ACEP 2018 Scientific Assembly (Oct 1 – Oct 4, 2018)**

- Two workshops on the pre-conference day (September 30, 2018)
- ✓ Qualitative Analysis Methods in Medical Education
  - ✓ Measuring Educational Outcomes with Reliability and Validity
- Each project group should meet to discuss their progress to date, problem solve issues that have developed and plans for the future at some prearranged time during the SAEM meeting

**5. 2018 CORD Academic Assembly**

- New class begins
- Projects and posters from prior classes will be presented.

**6. Definition of a MERC at CORD Scholar**

- Completion of 6 MERC workshops
- ✓ Cannot miss more than 30 minutes of any given workshop to get credit for that workshop
  - ✓ MERC Certification from the AAMC upon completion (separate \$100 fee to AAMC)
- Substantive participation in the completion and writing of a medical education research project. A written copy of the manuscript must be submitted to the MERC Committee for approval upon completion. Approval is required to qualify as a MERC at CORD Scholar.
- ✓ Should there be any question; the ultimate arbiter of this is the MERC committee. The final decision will be made by a simple majority vote which is binding.
  - ✓ It is the hope of the program that each project will result in a presentation at a regional/national meeting or submitted for publication in a peer reviewed publication.

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**I understand the commitment involved in successfully completing this program and agree that I realistically believe that I can participate in each phase of the course over the coming year.**

Please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date