**Application Guidelines**

**DO NOT INCLUDE the guideline sheets with your application!**

**The Program**

The 2021 MSTAR Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai provides medical students with an enriching experience in aging-related research and geriatrics and palliative medicine, with the mentorship of top experts in the fields. This program introduces students to research and academic experiences early in their training that they might not otherwise have during medical school. Positive experiences in the MSTAR program have led many physicians-in-training to pursue academic careers in aging, ranging from basic science to clinical research to health services research.

Students participate in an on-site **twelve-week** structured research, clinical, and didactic program in geriatrics and palliative medicine, appropriate to their level of training and interests. Research projects are offered in basic-translational, clinical, or health services research relevant to older adults. The MSTAR program directors at the **Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai** will work closely with accepted students to identify an appropriate research project and mentor at ISMMS if they do not already have one.

**Program Structure**

Please note that applicants must have a faculty sponsor/mentor from their home institution who is willing to facilitate and support the student’s work to apply.

The stipend level is approximately $5500 for the twelve-week period. Students who elect to participate in the scholarship program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai will not receive additional funds for travel and housing. **Students are committed to completing at least 10 weeks of the required 12 weeks on the campus of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.**

Due to the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, if we are unable to host students in New York City in the summer of 2021 we may convert to a virtual MSTAR experience, impacting the types of research and clinical experiences we can offer.

Adhere to best practices in infection prevention including wearing face masks, washing hands, and maintaining physical distancing in the hopes we can host you in New York City!

**Eligibility**

Any allopathic or osteopathic medical student in good standing, who will have successfully completed one year of medical school at a U.S. institution by June 2021. Evidence of good standing must be provided by the medical school registrar or dean when the student is notified of receiving the award.

Applicants must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or must have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., in possession of a currently valid Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551 (green card), or some other legal verification of such status.)

**Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.** Due to NIA restrictions, individuals holding PhD, MD, DVM, or equivalent doctoral degrees in the health sciences are not eligible to apply to do the MSTAR Program.

The NIA and other sponsoring organizations have a strong interest in continuing to diversify the research workforce committed to advancing the fields of aging and geriatrics research. Therefore, students who are members of ethnic or racial groups underrepresented in these fields, students with disabilities, or students whose background and experience are likely to diversify the research or medical questions being addressed, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Additionally, applicants receiving a stipend or salary support from a federal source are not eligible for this program. Applicants may not hold another award or participate in another program concurrently with the MSTAR program and must participate in the program full-time for a minimum of 10 consecutive weeks.

**Guidelines**

**Application Procedures**

The deadline for applications is **Monday,** **February 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST.** At Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, we offer excellent facilities, diverse research programs and provide the opportunity to interact with other students participating in the program.

The application must be completed by the student applying for the scholarship. The application consists of background information and a personal statement, as well as supporting documents from the appropriate faculty mentors.

**Application Guidelines**

Scholars will be chosen on the basis of their academic excellence, interest in geriatrics and palliative medicine, and potential for success.

**Reporting Requirements**

Reporting requirements for students participating in the MSTAR Program on the NTC Track will be determined by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai training site.

All Scholars will be invited to submit an abstract to present a poster of their research project at the 2022 American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Annual Meeting, in Orlando, Florida May 12-14, 2022.

**Instructions**

**DO NOT INCLUDE this instruction sheet with your application!**

This application is exclusive to the MSTAR Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Please contact ISMMS MSTAR training center program coordinator to discuss your interest in the program, prior to submitting your application. Links to the ISMMS MSTAR website and contact information can be found [HERE](http://medinfo.mssm.edu/MSTAR).

The application requires the following:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ISMMS student with identified ISMMS Faculty Research Mentor** | **Non-ISMMS student with identified****ISMMS Faculty Research Mentor**  | **Non-ISMMS student without identified ISMMS Faculty Research Mentor**  |
| Cover page (p. 4) | ü | ü | ü |
| Educational History (pp. 5-6) | ü | ü | ü |
| Personal statement (p. 7) | ü | ü | ü |
| Research topic and Plan (p. 7) | ü | ü | N/A |
| Research interests (p. 7) | N/A | N/A | ü |
| Agreements (pp. 8-9) | ü | ü | ü |
| ISMMS Faculty Research Mentor Form (p. 10) | ü | ü | N/A |
| Home Institution Faculty Sponsor Form (p. 11) | N/A | ü | ü |
| NIH-style Biosketch | üFrom Faculty Research Mentor if he/she does not have a faculty appointment in the Department of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine | üFrom Faculty Research Mentor if he/she does not have a faculty appointment in the Department of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine&üFrom Home Institution Faculty Sponsor | üFrom Home Institution Faculty Sponsor |

The application must be submitted by email to **MSTAR@mssm.edu**no later **than Monday, February 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., EST. The completed application should be sent as a single PDF file, not to exceed 5 MB, and must include the application form, faculty sponsor form and research mentor NIH-style biosketch form. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.** The file may not include any additional documents; please submit **only** the required materials. Late submissions or submissions that do not adhere to the instructions will NOTbe accepted.

The application file should be named as follows: “Last name, First name”; for example, “Delgado, Roberta.docx”.

**Cover Page**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name of applicant: Preferred first name (optional): Applicant’s home institution:       | Sex in Birth Certificate:  Date of birth (MM-DD-YY):MD expected in (enter year):Race/ethnicity (optional): |
| Current Address, Telephone, and Email Address of Applicant: | Permanent Address, Telephone, and Email, if different from current: |
| **Faculty Sponsor(s) -** Name, Title, Institution, Complete Mailing Address, Telephone, and Email: | **Research Mentor(s)** Name, Title, Institution, Complete Mailing Address, Telephone, and Email: *(Note: Attach a recent version of an NIH-style biosketch. Not required for faculty of the Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at ISMMS)* |

**SECTION 1: EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

Please account for your career since high school. If your entire career cannot be addressed in this section (for example, if you decided to take a year off after graduation from undergraduate school), please mention this in your personal statement.

**Current Medical School:**

Institution:

Month/Year started:

MCAT Score:

**Previous graduate or professional schools:**

Please begin with the most recent and list the dates as MM/YY to MM/YY.

Institution #1:       Degree:

Dates attended:       Major:       GPA:

Institution #2:       Degree:

Dates attended:       Major:       GPA:

Institution #3:       Degree:

Dates attended:       Major:       GPA:

**Undergraduate schools attended (begin with most recent):**

Institution #1:       Degree:

Dates attended:       Major:       GPA:

Institution #2:       Degree:

Dates attended:       Major:       GPA:

Institution #3:       Degree:

Dates attended:       Major:       GPA:

**Honors and Awards in Undergraduate/Graduate Schools**

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**Extracurricular, community, and avocation activities**

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**Courses or other experiences in geriatrics/gerontology**

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**Research experience (aging-related and/or non-aging related)**

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**SECTION 2: PERSONAL STATEMENT & RESEARCH INTERESTS**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Please describe your past experience, expectations for the program, future goals, and other important information you would like to convey to the review committee. The personal statement should address your interest in geriatrics or aging research, discuss how this interest is related to the above listed honors, activities and courses, and explain why you are interested in this program in particular. This portion of the application is weighted heavily by the review committee. Please be succinct, but provide enough detail to describe your interest (**maximum of 750 words**).

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**RESEARCH TOPIC AND PLAN** (For applicants with an identified ISMMS mentor)

Please include a brief summary of your research interests **AND** topic/plan as agreed upon with mentor/sponsor. (**maximum of 750 words**).

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS** (For applicants without an identified ISMMS mentor)

If you have particular types of research or subject areas you know you would like to pursue research in, please describe them here. If you do not, please note that you are flexible in this area. Examples of types of research might include basic, translational, clinical, health services, etc. **(maximum of 750 words**).

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**SECTION 3: AGREEMENTS**

Do you anticipate any particular scheduling needs during the summer? Please describe:

Are you a former recipient of this award?

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

How did you hear about this scholarship program?

**Please enter your initials for each statement to indicate your understanding and agreement.**

I affirm that I will have completed at least one year of study at a school of medicine or osteopathy prior to June 2021.

Initials:

I affirm that I am a citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident alien of the United States.

Initials:

Faculty Sponsor: I understand that my application will not be considered complete until it includes a Faculty Sponsor form and the NIH-style biographical sketch (if applicable).

Initials:

Research Mentor: I understand that my application will not be considered complete until it includes a Research Mentor plan.

Initials:

I agree to commit a minimum of **10 consecutive** weeks to the Program, 400 work hours.

Initials:

I understand that all of the information that I have provided will be verified as a normal part of

the application process and that any application which contains falsehoods will be immediately

disqualified, and my institution notified of the irregularities.

Initials:

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of my statements made in this application and to persons who contact me about this application, are true and made in good faith.

Initials:

**ISMMS Faculty Research Mentor Form**

***(Required for all students who have an identified ISMMS Faculty Research Mentor)***

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a Faculty Research Mentor for a 2021 MSTAR Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai applicant. This form will allow the MSTAR Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai to learn more about your relationship with the applicant, and how you plan to help further the applicant’s career in aging research and geriatrics/palliative medicine**.**

**If you are the Faculty Research Mentor for more than one student,** **this form should be personalized for each applicant.** Please email the completed form in PDF format and email directly to MSTAR@mssm.edu. This form is due by the **Monday,** **February 1, 2021 deadline**. If you do **not** hold a faculty appointment in the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, please also include an NIH-style biosketch.

***Part 1***

**Faculty Research Mentor name:**

**Title:**

**Department:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone:**

**Applicant’s Name:**

***Part 2***

*Please describe your relationship to the applicant and reasons for recommending him/her for participation in this program. Include the research topic and mentoring plan for the applicant throughout the duration of the MSTAR Program and beyond. Provide a description of an alternative research and mentoring plan in case the applicant has to remain offsite due to COVID-19 restrictions. Highlight previous experiences and track record in mentoring trainees in research. State why you feel the applicant would be an outstanding candidate for the MSTAR Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.*

***Part 3***

*Please describe current and future plans to encourage and expand the applicant’s interest in aging research, including after the end of the project period.*

**Home Institution Faculty Sponsor Form**

***(Required ONLY for all non-ISMMS students)***

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a Home Institution Faculty Sponsor for a 2021 MSTAR Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai applicant. This form will allow the MSTAR Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai to learn more about your relationship with the applicant, and how you plan to help further the applicant’s career in aging research and geriatrics/palliative medicine**.**

**If you are the Home Institution Faculty Sponsor** **for more than one student,** **this form should be personalized for each applicant.** Please email the completed form in PDF format and email directly to MSTAR@mssm.edu. This form is due by the **Monday,** **February 1, 2021 deadline**. If you do **not** hold a faculty appointment in the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, please also include an NIH-style biosketch.

***Part 1***

**Home Institution** **Faculty Sponsor’s name:**

**Title:**

**Institution/Department:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone:**

**Applicant’s Name:**

***Part 2***

*Please describe your relationship to the applicant and reasons for recommending him/her for participation in this program. Include any relevant academic and disciplinary history. Please also describe demonstrated interest that the applicant has shown in geriatrics, palliative medicine and/or aging research and why you feel he/she would be an outstanding for the MSTAR Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.*

***Part 3***

*Please describe current and future plans to encourage and expand the applicant’s interest in aging research, including after the end of the project period.*