

Academic Research Track



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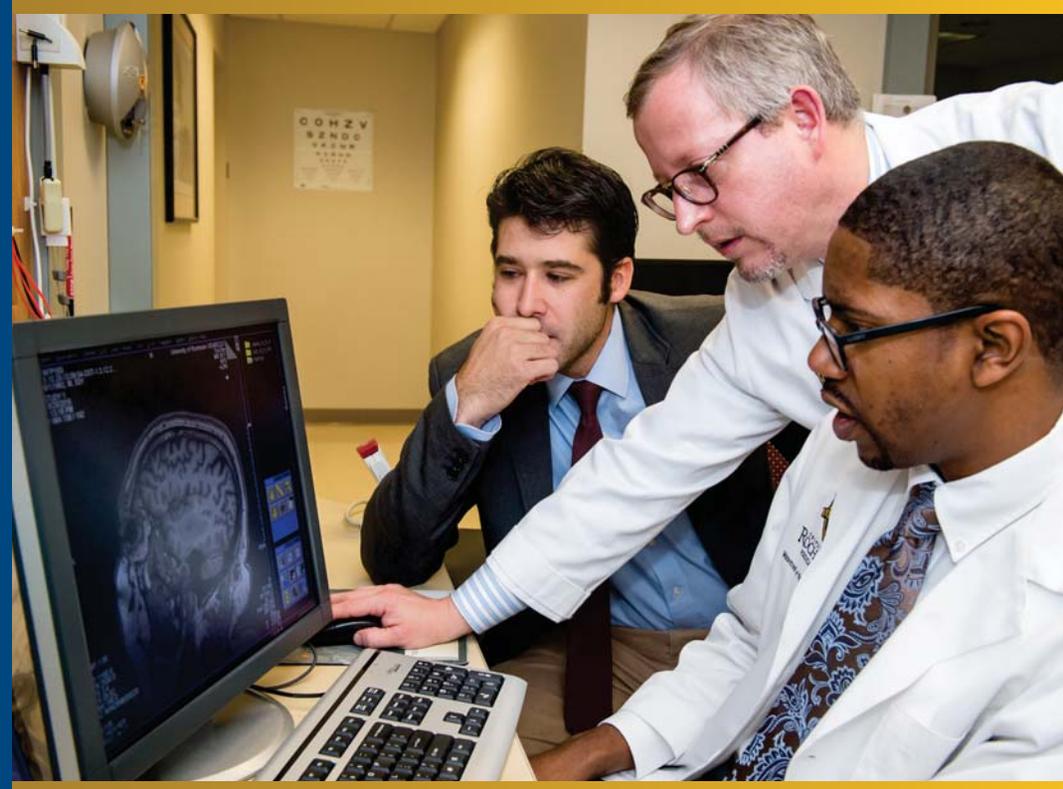
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For detailed information, please visit our
website: <http://bit.ly/URMC-ART>



"Academic research careers in medicine offer unparalleled intellectual challenges, career flexibility and job satisfaction."

— Robert A. Gross, M.D., Ph.D.



SCHOOL OF
**MEDICINE &
DENTISTRY**
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

THE “ART” OF RESEARCH



ART is an excellent option for highly motivated medical students interested in pursuing an academic career in medicine that encompasses research. The track features broad and deep exposure to basic, clinical, educational or translational research, involving both didactic and mentored research experiences through an enriched medical school curriculum. Academic research careers offer unparalleled intellectual challenges, career flexibility, and job satisfaction. ART debuted in the 2005-2006 academic year in response to critical shortages of academic physicians, and has attracted some of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry's best and brightest students. Specifically designed to train future leaders in a variety of research fields, ART offers students an opportunity to obtain research training and to investigate a topic of interest in greater depth. In conjunction with other allied funding sources, we anticipate that 5-10 students per year will pursue the ART curriculum; some students will pursue work in additional degree programs. These will provide students with a strong background in medically-oriented research, with the goal of engendering a long-standing interest in academic medicine.

AN ENRICHED CURRICULUM

The first two years of the Academic Research Track (ART) curriculum occur in parallel with the Double Helix curriculum, consisting of discussion groups (approximately once per month), which allow students to hear from potential mentors on a wide range of topics. In introductory seminars, some of the Medical Center's most distinguished professors will review aspects of their career—from how their interest in research started, to where their research pursuits have taken them—so that students not only glean

ideas for future research projects, but also see how others created successful, satisfying careers.

These seminars will cover basic science, translational, clinical, health services and education research. The core of the curriculum in the first two years will be modules encompassing varied aspects of medical research, which are described below. The curriculum has the following general structure:

- During the summer after the first year, students in ART are encouraged to pursue a mentored research project in basic, clinical, educational or translational (“bench to bedside” or “bedside to community”) research. The program faculty will help students find appropriate mentors, but students may also select a mentor and topic independently.
- Later, usually between years two and three, or between years three and four, students will engage in a year of tuition-free, independent study (a “year out”) to pursue an in-depth research project with their mentor (see Funding). Students may choose to pursue a Master's degree within the URMC School of Medicine and Dentistry in such disciplines as Public Health, Clinical Investigation, or Neurobiology. Such training may extend beyond one year. Students will present their work at a platform presentation to the medical center community and are encouraged to do the same at national meetings.
- In the final two years of the ART, students will embark on their clinical clerkships, and will complete their research projects by writing a manuscript that could serve either as a submission for publication or as the basis for a presentation at a conference.



CURRICULUM MODULES



The curriculum for the ART seminars was conceived as a “liberal arts” approach to medical research. It is intended to serve as preparation for the in-depth research experience itself. Each year, students can attend six modules, each consisting of two-three seminars:

- Research as a Human Enterprise
- Formulating a Research Question
- Measurements
- Data Presentation
- Finding the Money
- Writing for Publication

Funded scholars must complete a self-study certificate course on Human Subjects Research and are required to take the Ethics in Research course offered by the Graduate School.



TO BE SUCCESSFUL



Students completing the ART course of study must also remain in good standing in the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Students are expected to attend at least 75% of the seminars during the first two years, or during their year out. For those students pursuing a concurrent Masters degree, this requirement is waived. Upon successful completion of the course of study that includes an oral presentation, the graduate is entitled to the MD degree and a certificate of completion of ART. We encourage ART scholars to write a paper suitable for publication, which can be submitted for judging by a School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) committee for “distinction and honors in research.”

FUNDING

ART is a training program shared between SMD and the URMC's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). The CTSI currently supports four scholars per year, though funding can come from other sources. CTSI funding consists of a NIH-level stipend and additional support for research; the CTSI and URMC provide support for tuition of a qualifying Masters program for the student. ART funding is awarded on a competitive basis after review of student applications that outlines the proposed work, its importance to the applicant's proposed career path, and that describes in detail the mentoring plan for the student's work.