

# Department of Pediatrics Residency Research Track (RRT)

## Overview

### Goals

The Department of Pediatrics Residency Research Track provides residents the opportunity to take on a significant research project. The goal of this program is for the resident to prepare, present, and publish their findings. A presentation may occur at either a regional or national meeting. Since presenting a project can be essential to pediatric career development, we encourage residents in the program to do a presentation at a meeting that would promote future career development.

The success of this program is dependent on active involvement of the mentor. Residents are allowed up to four two week blocks of time (over 2 years) and approximately 25 half days per academic year during their second and third years of training. The scheduling and distribution of the research blocks is flexible as long as plans are made prior to February of the intern year. This should be decided by the resident and the mentor after consideration of the type of project and the mentor's schedule. For example, conducting a clinical research project may be more efficient with two week blocks separated by a number of months while a bench science project may require a longer, more concentrated training period.

Research skills will be taught through attendance at U of R sponsored activities and with an online curriculum. Face to face meetings will be used to critique and teach the proper presentation of research including the preparation of posters, talks, and manuscripts.

### Research Environment

This program provides support and guidance for residents who want to do any type of research. This may include health services, clinical, or bench research. Residents in this track will have the opportunity to learn and enhance a "research toolbox" skill set that includes the development of a hypothesis and aims, conduct of research with acquisition of project specific skills, data and statistical analysis, abstract and manuscript preparation, and oral presentation.

### Overview of Process

Since residency is an extremely busy time, it is essential that plans for a research project are made as early as possible. Interns interested in the RRT should contact Dr. Kate Ackerman for guidance in choosing a mentor and a project. The RRT has the following deadlines:

Intern Year (goal is February): Notice of intent, meet with Dr. Ackerman or Dr. Wellington, get approval to do track with program directors

Second Year (by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> research block): Research Proposal and Mentor letter submitted for review

Second and Third Year: Progress report/Meeting every 6 months

Third Year: Oral presentation at grand rounds, presentation at national meeting



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## Department of Pediatrics Residency Research Track

### Notice of Intent

This should include the following information:

Name of intern and areas of interest, career goals if they are known

Name of proposed mentor or mentors (if identified)

### Mentor Letter

This should cover the following points:

Assurance that the mentor has the time and resources to help the resident complete a successful project

Description of the title and purpose of the project

Assurance that the project is appropriate for the time allotted for residency research

Description of what the resident will do and learn from the project

Discussion of end goals for the project – Will the results likely lead to a presentation at a national meeting and a published manuscript?

### Research Proposal and Progress Reports

This 3 page proposal should include specific aims, background, research design, and research plan. The proposal will be reviewed by expert faculty. Critiques/questions will be returned to the resident/mentor team, and the approval of the project plans will be contingent on the review and response to review.



RRT graduates Ann Sweeney and Karen Sethi learn about research models of congenital heart disease

### Distinction in Research

The review committee will evaluate accomplishments made by each resident in the RRT. Success in the Resident Research Project is ideally determined by 1) submission of an abstract and presentation at a major national meeting, 2) preparation of a manuscript that is accepted for publication or 3) preparation of a grant as a PI. Upon successful completion of a project, the resident may be awarded with a "Distinction in Research".

## Residency Research Track

Kate Ackerman, MD –Director

Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD – Assoc Director

Brooke Steinbronn – Administrative Director