SOAR
Student Opportunities for Academic Research

The SOAR program begins in the 1st year of medical school and culminates in the 4th year with submission of the final project by March 1. Successful completion of the program will satisfy students’ Scholarly Paper requirement and lead to eligibility for “graduation with distinction” in their fields.

SOAR students receive intensive mentoring within a chosen concentration. Students will become part of the mentor’s research team, and will spend the summer between 1st and 2nd year working with that mentor at Einstein or an affiliated hospital. This summer experience includes Works-in-Progress sessions and workshops.

During the 2nd year, there is a SOAR Supper Seminar Series with interactive sessions that focus on leadership and research. Fourth year research fellowships will provide time to present research findings and finish scholarly papers. Under the guidance of their mentors, students will produce a project abstract and have an opportunity to present it at national meetings.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

AGING
Amy R. Ehrlich, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Department of Medicine (Geriatrics)
eaehrhlich@montefiore.org

Students are given the opportunity to work closely with a research mentor in one of the many aging related research groups on the Einstein/Montefiore campuses. The Aging concentration spans the field of aging from basic science to clinical research. Based on their area of interest, students will be paired with a senior mentor in one of 4 broad categories: geriatrics, geriatric psychiatry, neurology of aging, and biology of aging.

BIOETHICS
Elizabeth Kitsis, MD, MBE
Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Population Health
elizabeth.kitsis@einstein.yu.edu

Students participating in the concentration in Bioethics will expand their understanding of the field. Student projects may include, but are not limited to, bioethics consultation and mediation, reproductive ethics, public health ethics, global health ethics, narrative ethics, research ethics, pharmaceutical ethics, LGBT bioethics issues, and the role of religion in medical decision-making.

CLINICAL RESEARCH
Ellie Schoenbaum, MD
Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Population Health
ellie.schoenbaum@einstein.yu.edu

Student projects in the Clinical Research concentration will address a health or medical issue using epidemiologic, behavioral, or health services research methodology. A hallmark of the program is that students will work in research settings at Montefiore or Einstein in which a junior physician-scientist and his or her senior mentor/investigator are conducting research.

GLOBAL HEALTH
Matt Anderson, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Social Medicine
bronxdcc@gmail.com

Students will learn and practice research skills overseas and explore the social and political aspects of living and working in a foreign country. Projects include two Einstein collaborations: 1) studying the epidemiology of Hanta virus infection in Chile and 2) focusing on improving early access to care for people living with AIDS in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE
Benjamin Kliger, MD, MPH
Associate Professor, Department of Family and Social Medicine
bkliger@chpnet.org

The concentration in Integrative Medicine offers in-depth understanding of relevant clinical practice and research issues, including nutrition and complementary/alternative medicine. Projects might include qualitative research on patients’ experience of receiving acupuncture for chronic pain; a systematic review on herbal medicines for irritable bowel syndrome; or designing a clinical program offering integrative healthcare to an underserved patient population.

PUBLIC HEALTH
William B. Jordan, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Social Medicine
wjordan@montefiore.org

Students will gain experience ranging from assessment of public health needs and trends, to formulation of a population health response, to implementation of programs, to evaluation of interventions, followed by dissemination and advocacy. Opportunities for public health work will be provided through Einstein faculty, Montefiore administrators, city health department officials, and non-profit organization advocates.

TRACK ON URBAN COMMUNITY HEALTH (TOUCH)
Pablo Joo, MD
Assistant Dean for Medical Education
pablo.joo@einstein.yu.edu

TOUCH focuses on improving the health status of diverse urban underserved patients, families, and communities. The goals of TOUCH are 1) to allow students to develop a longitudinal community-based health initiative with community involvement and participation 2) to allow students to formulate a research project that assesses health outcomes linked to their initiative and 3) to provide mentorship to students in developing critical thinking, leadership and advocacy skills.

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE
Joan W. Berman, PhD
Professor, Department of Pathology, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
joan.berman@einstein.yu.edu

Students will examine mechanisms of normal and aberrant cellular and molecular processes, as well as disease pathogenesis. Students will develop and address a scientific question, and perform “hands on” bench work as part of an interdisciplinary team. Students will interact with scientists related to their project both within and outside Einstein/Montefiore by attending lectures, conferences and scientific meetings.

For more detailed information about the program and each area of concentration, please visit us on the web at: www.einstein.yu.edu/soar

Students interested in SOAR should email OMSR@einstein.yu.edu or call 718.430.2007.
Student Opportunities for Academic Research

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students will apply to a particular SOAR concentration. Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged and may involve one or two concentration areas. After reviewing the concentration descriptions, please email OMSR@einstein.yu.edu or call 718.430.2087 for assistance contacting the appropriate concentration director(s). It is essential for students to meet with the relevant SOAR concentration directors to discuss the program and their interests, as well as to identify potential mentors and a project. Applications are available online (www.einstein.yu.edu/soar) and are due December 1st. Applications may be submitted electronically to OMSR@einstein.yu.edu.

The program will accept up to 20 students. Students will be notified of acceptance by January 15.

APPLICATIONS DUE December 1st

THE SOAR PROGRAM

The SOAR Program is a structured experience of mentor–guided creative discovery that develops a student’s analytic, critical thinking, and leadership skills, and leads to a research paper or other type of capstone project. The SOAR experience will broaden students’ perspectives of medicine beyond the core medical school curriculum, capture their passion, and confer mastery of knowledge and methodology relevant to their concentration. Students will have opportunities to learn about SOAR in class meetings and in consultation with SOAR staff during their 1st semester at Einstein.

THE NEW SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATION PROGRAM

FOR FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

Office of Medical Student Research
Harold & Muriel Block Building, 504
Phone: 718.430.2080
Email: OMSR@einstein.yu.edu

Director, Medical Student Research
Ellie Schoenbaum, MD
Office: Harold & Muriel Block Building, 518
Phone: 718.430.2518
Email: ellie.schoenbaum@einstein.yu.edu

Administrator, Medical Student Research
Marni LoIacono Merves, LMSW, MA
Office: Harold & Muriel Block Building, 505
Phone: 718.430.2087
Email: marni.loiacono@einstein.yu.edu

“The SOAR program is a great opportunity for incoming students, spanning the entire duration of medical school. They will get to form a meaningful relationship with a mentor and learn the basics of research in their chosen field. These skills will likely serve them well as future physicians.”

— Jeremy Gold
Einstein Class of 2015
SOAR Task Force Committee Member