

**Department of Family & Community Medicine**  
**University of Illinois Chicago, College of Medicine**  
**Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship**  
**for Future Family Physicians**

**Goal:** To enable medical students interested in a Family and Community Medicine career to acquire knowledge and understanding of basic principles of clinical or quality improvement research design and methodology, and to gain skills in conducting research relevant to primary care. This research fellowship is designed to provide medical students at the UIC College of Medicine, interested in Family and Community Medicine, an opportunity to engage in hands-on clinical, quality improvement, and educational research under the supervision of faculty in the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

First-year medical students are invited to apply for this eight-week summer research fellowship. Selected applicants will identify a research mentor among participating faculty members, who will provide potential fellows with descriptions of their current and potential research projects suitable for student engagement in research. The applicant and research mentor will jointly design an appropriate research project to be conducted during the summer between the M1 and M2 years. The project may be related directly to the faculty mentor's research program or may be an entirely new idea generated by the student.

During the summer research fellowship period, research fellows will be required to attend a three-day research training course conducted by the UIC Center for Clinical and Translational Science. Each trainee will work with his/her research mentor to plan, implement, evaluate, and disseminate project-related work, as appropriate for the stage of development of the research project. Trainees will present results of their research experience as a poster or oral presentation at a local, regional, or national scientific meeting (e.g., Society for Teachers of Family Medicine's Annual Spring Conference or North American Primary Care Research Group's Annual Conference) and at the Department of Family and Community Medicine's Annual Scholarship Day in the year following the training period.

At the end of the 8-week summer experience, faculty mentors will complete an evaluation report to certify students' successful participation in the program. A stipend of \$3,000 will be awarded to fellows who successfully complete the fellowship, and up to \$1,000 will be available to the faculty mentor to support research expenses.

**Eligibility Criteria:** First-year medical students in the UIC College of Medicine are eligible to apply for up to three available positions. Students must be interested in **Family and Community Medicine** as a career.

**Application Process:** Final applications are due by Friday, March 6, 2026. The application is a three-step process.

### Step 1:

- Applicants will review the research foci of participating faculty and connect with them to discuss their research interests. Faculty mentors must be contacted by Friday, January 9, 2026. Please note that faculty mentors may receive multiple students interested in working with them. Each faculty mentor will select **one** student with whom they will work.
- Applicants chosen by faculty mentors will meet the faculty to discuss potential summer research projects. The applicant and mentor will collaboratively prepare a brief proposal (maximum 1000 words) describing the research plan.

**Step 2:** Applicants will complete the **Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship Application** [see page 4], prepared in collaboration with their faculty mentor, and submit it along with their **Research Proposal** by March 6, 2026. Submission of the completed application and research proposal is required for consideration for the fellowship.

**Step 3:** Applications will be reviewed and scored by a selection committee, a panel of reviewers (excluding faculty serving as research mentors), comprised of researchers in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. **Application review criteria - Page 5. Projects that require IRB review and approval and are ready for implementation in the next few months (approximately by April-May 2026) will be preferred.** The selection committee's decision will be communicated to applicants by early April 2026.

### Application and Selection Timeline:

- Fellowship application including research proposal (developed in collaboration with a faculty mentor) submission deadline: March 6, 2026
- Notification to selected Fellows: April 2026

**Summer Fellowship Period:** 8-week experience between the M1 and M2 years. The exact dates of the 8-week summer fellowship period will be determined based on mutual agreement between the research fellow and mentor.

**Fellowship Director:** Memoona Hasnain, MD, MHPE, PhD

2026 Participating Faculty Mentors	Research Foci	Email
Emily Graber, MD* Eden Liu, MD*	Point-of-care ultrasound, primary care <a href="#">Learn more</a> about Dr. Graber's work <a href="#">Learn more</a> about Dr. Liu's work	<a href="mailto:egrabe2@uic.edu">egrabe2@uic.edu</a> <a href="mailto:eliu5@uic.edu">eliu5@uic.edu</a>
Jean Reading, PhD	Optimizing cancer survivorship support <a href="#">Learn more</a> about Dr. Reading's work	<a href="mailto:jreading@uic.edu">jreading@uic.edu</a>
Memoona Hasnain, MD, MHPE, PhD	Health equity, compassion & humanism <a href="#">Learn more</a> about Dr. Hasnain's work	<a href="mailto:memoona@uic.edu">memoona@uic.edu</a>

\*Co-mentors for the fellowship

# Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship – Application

## 1. Applicant information

Please print legibly or type

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

UIC Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred telephone contact number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Current curriculum vitae (CV)

3. Cover Letter. Please describe on a separate sheet why you would like to participate in the UIC Family and Community Medicine Student Summer Research Fellowship, including a statement of research interests and career goals, prior research experience, and what would make you a good candidate for this research program.

## 4. Research Proposal (see outline on next page)

Please address your application to:  
Dr. Memoona Hasnain, MD, MHPE, PHD  
Director, Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship  
Associate Head for Faculty Development & Research  
Department of Family Medicine, College of Medicine, UIC

Application materials should be submitted electronically to: [DFMresearch@uic.edu](mailto:DFMresearch@uic.edu)

When submitting electronically, please include all sections of the application within **one document**, in the following order:

1. Applicant Information
2. CV
3. Cover Letter
4. Research Proposal

Thank you for your interest. **Applications must be received by March 6, 2026.**

## Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship - Research Proposal

(Maximum 1000 words for Sections B-E)

**Student's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty Mentor's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Title of research
- B. Aims
- C. Background and significance of proposed work, brief literature review
- D. Methods – research questions, study sample, research procedures, work plan, timeline, anticipated outcomes
- E. Strategy for communicating the work and outcomes to local and national research community via publication(s) and presentation(s)

**Date:**

## Application Review Criteria

Research proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

**1. Fit with the objectives of the Summer Research Fellowship**

- The project will help to foster academic inquiry and nurture the research career development of the mentee.

**2. Scientific merit**

- The project aims and research design are congruent and scientifically logical.
- The project is feasible.\*
- There are no major flaws in the research design that would lead to an unsuccessful project.

**3. Relevance to primary care practice or medical education & impact**

- This project would generate data that would contribute meaningfully to existing primary care practice or education knowledge. (Good pilot data is sufficient for meeting this criterion)

**4. Overall quality of proposal**

**5. Applicant's capability to successfully carry out the proposed research** (based on CV & personal statement)

**6. Applicant's commitment to a career in Family Medicine** (based on personal statement)

**\*Note:** Projects that require IRB review and approval and are ready for implementation in the next few months (approximately by April-May 2026) will be preferred.

# Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship – Mentor Evaluation Form

*(To be completed at the end of the summer fellowship)*

**Mentor Name:**

**Student's Name:**

**A. Overall assessment of student's work during the Summer Fellowship**

**Circle/Select one:** Excellent, Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory

**B. Please comment on the student's performance during the fellowship, including but not limited to the student's understanding of key issues related to the subject matter, dedication to project goals, and interaction with the project team and study participants:**

**C. Please comment on the project's impact and possibility for further study/work:**

**D. How will results/outcomes be disseminated? Please comment on the opportunity for the student to disseminate work internally and externally, as well as the possibility for publication.**

**E. Other comments:**

Signature:

Date: