

2009-2010 FOCUS Medical Student Fellowship (MSF) Opportunity

Funded, Full-time, Faculty-Mentored, Medical Student Research Related to Women's Health

FOCUS–Bertha Dagan Berman Medical Student Fellowship Award in Women's Health

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline: JUNE 8, 2009

Who Can Apply: Any University of Pennsylvania medical students (**male and female**) who have completed their clinical clerkships are eligible and encouraged to apply!

FOCUS on Health & Leadership for Women (FOCUS), a School of Medicine program based in Penn's Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), invites applications from Penn Medical Students for a Bertha Dagan Berman sponsored FOCUS Fellowship, an opportunity to do full time research in an area of women's health. Applicants may apply for consideration using the application format below. For your reference, a list of all prior fellowship recipients and their projects is accessible on the FOCUS website (<http://www.med.upenn.edu/focus/FellowshipRecipients.shtml>). We currently have support for several research fellowships and encourage students to apply.

The **FOCUS-Bertha Dagan Berman Medical Student Fellowship Award in Women's Health** was established in 1997 through the generosity of Linda Lee Alter. This endowment makes it possible for at least 2 medical students each year to spend six months in a focused, mentored experience studying some aspect of general women's health. Women's health is defined very broadly. Prior Berman Award recipients have chosen to study such topics as pregnancy and family-building in patients with multiple sclerosis; analysis of gender differences in substance abuse, improving access to preventive care, finding new ways of providing information about health to women in underserved communities; analysis of breast tissue markers in breast cancer research; and, dermatologic aspects of systemic lupus erythematosus, a disease which is more prevalent in women. The fellowship will include both research and clinical experiences which will be specifically developed for each student awardee with the assistance of FOCUS leadership and the faculty mentor. The purpose of this experience is to enable medical students to learn "hands-on" research and collaborative skills, to gain knowledge of some aspect of women's health, and to work on a publication or article generated from the research.

Specifics of FOCUS Bertha Dagan Berman Fellowship (outlined above):

Funding: A monthly stipend of \$1,250 will be provided to student recipients, totaling \$7500 for the six-month fellowship term. Faculty mentors receive additional funds (a one-time payment of \$1500) to support research expenses and other costs associated with their mentoring of the student-fellows over the 6-month period. These FOCUS funds may be applied to a 6 month period of a longer research experience whose remaining time is supported from other sources.

Mentorship: Identification of potential faculty mentors by interested students is required prior to application to this FOCUS fellowship opportunity. Mentors must be full time Penn faculty with solidly established research programs. A list of faculty who replied in past years with interest in mentoring students is available on the FOCUS website (<http://www.med.upenn.edu/focus/MentorOptions.shtml>); however this is for reference only and is not necessarily current. Student applicants interested in projects or faculty mentors other than those listed on the website are welcome and encouraged to propose these alternatives.

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Credit & Requirements: This Fellowship opportunity has been designed to be a scholarly pursuit rather than a workstudy experience. Medical students who complete their Fellowship will fulfill the Scholarly Pursuit requirement (3 credits). This experience will be graded on a pass/fail basis and will be recorded on the student transcript. Any student who is awarded as a FOCUS Fellow will work with their Penn faculty mentor to prepare a formal initial project proposal which must be reviewed and approved by the FOCUS Director of Research Programs. A progress report will be required midway in the fellowship period, and a final report will be due at the completion of the six-month experience.

Time Line: Deadline for Applications is June 8th. We will contact finalists starting June 10th to schedule interviews for the morning of June 18th (Thursday) and the afternoon of June 19th (Friday). Winners will be announced by June 30th. The fellowship may begin as early as July 2009.

Application Requirements

***** Deadline: June 8, 2009**

Please send Applications both electronically and by snail mail and include the following information:

1. Your contact information (name, address, telephone number, pager, email address, and preferred method of contact)
2. Your CV
3. An official copy of your transcript
4. A description (PLEASE, no longer than 700 words) that includes any past research or community experience related to women's health and your reasons for applying for an intensive opportunity in women's health at this point in your medical education.
5. Your specific clinical/research interests (please indicate the faculty mentor whom you are considering)
6. Names (including contact information- email and phone) of two references.

Your application packet must be received by **June 8, 2009** at the snail mail address below. In addition to sending by mail, all application materials except the transcript (which must come directly from Suite 100 or the Registrar) should also be sent electronically to: pscott3@mail.med.upenn.edu

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Questions can be directed to Patricia Scott: pscott3@mail.med.upenn.edu or 215-898-3562

Additional FOCUS Fellowship details at: <http://www.med.upenn.edu/focus/StudentFellowships.shtml>



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