2011-2012 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 6, 2011

Who Can Apply: Any University of Pennsylvania medical students (male or 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 general 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 at least two research fellowships and encourage students to apply. We are waiting to hear about other funding to support additional students in this unique research opportunity. This may include support for research specific to the area of women’s cardiovascular health; we therefore encourage any students with such interest to also apply now.

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: photosensitivity in cutaneous lupus; determinants of bone mineral density; excisional biopsy versus core biopsy among breast cancer patients; risk of bone fractures in HIV/HCV coinfected women receiving combination antiretroviral therapy; racial disparities in breast cancer reconstruction; 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 to Apply for the Fellowship:
Funding: A monthly stipend of $1,250 will be provided to student recipients, totaling $7500 for the six-month fellowship term. 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 and active 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. You may also scroll through the list of prior fellowship awardees to get a sense of other mentor possibilities (http://www.med.upenn.edu/focus/FellowshipRecipients.shtml).

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. Students will be expected to attend three Fellowship luncheon meetings to discuss their projects with each other and the FOCUS Directors and deliver a formal presentation of their respective research at the final meeting.

**Time Line:** Deadline for Applications is June 6, 2011. We will contact finalists starting June 8th to schedule interviews for June 14th (Tuesday) and June 16th (Thursday). Winners will be announced by June 30th. The fellowship may begin as early as July 2011.

**Application Requirements**

***Deadline:*** June 6, 2011

Please send your application packet both by mail (no faxes, please) and also electronically (excluding transcript) and include all of 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 (must come directly from either Suite 100 or the Registrar)

4. A description (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.

Please deliver a hard copy of your application to the address below and follow it with an electronic version sent to pscott3@mail.med.upenn.edu:

Patricia Scott, Director of Operations  
FOCUS on Health & Leadership for Women  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine | Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
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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