Clinical research provides a critical link in applying basic research to patient care. Specialized training in biomedical research and in clinical medicine prepares the student for this highly rewarding career. The M.D./Ph.D. program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has been developed to respond to the need for biomedical scientist-clinicians trained in multiple medical and scientific arenas. M.D./Ph.D. scientists differ from basic scientists in that their in-depth clinical training, combined with extensive biomedical research gives them a unique perspective with which to view medical problems.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Six to eight years of academic study are essential to complete the rigorous requirements of the M.D./Ph.D. program. Students must be admitted into the College of Medicine and into one of the Ph.D. programs within the Graduate School. At the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Ph.D. programs are available in the Departments of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Interdisciplinary Toxicology, Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology, Physiology and Biophysics, and Interdisciplinary Biomedical Science.

M.D./Ph.D. students first complete the initial two preclinical years of the Medical College program. They then study research in a specific discipline in the Graduate School for two to four years. Finally, they complete the last two clinical years of the Medical College curriculum and receive both the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. Credits earned in most of the preclinical basic science courses in the College of Medicine will be accepted toward the Ph.D. program and the individual interests and needs of the M.D./Ph.D. student. College of Medicine and Graduate School standards of academic achievement apply separately for the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

The Graduate School portion of the program is individually tailored to personal career goals and normally involves two to four years of study, including advanced course work, original research under the direction of a faculty advisor, the Ph.D. candidacy examination, a dissertation, and defense of the dissertation. Before re-entering the Medical College for the last two years of the M.D. portion of the curriculum, permission from the dissertation committee must be obtained. The curriculum for the remaining two years includes required and elective clinical courses. Senior research electives may also be taken to complete graduate work. Dissertation credits will be earned during the clinical years until the dissertation defense examination is completed.
ELIGIBILITY

The M.D./Ph.D. program is offered to a limited number of qualified students who have an exceptional potential for research. Any student applying to the Medical College may apply for this program. In addition, Freshman or Sophomore medical students may apply. Enrollees are required to pass Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination at the conclusion of the Sophomore year in order to begin full-time study in the Graduate School. The Graduate School requires a minimum grade point average of 3.00 on a four-point scale to be eligible for financial support during the graduate component of the program. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores will not be required for acceptance by the Graduate School. MCAT scores will be submitted for evaluation purposes.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each year, institutional scholarships/loans will be awarded by the College of Medicine to students entering the M.D./Ph.D. program. This scholarship/loan will be equal to the amount of tuition for each year of the medical school curriculum. Year to year renewal of the scholarship/loan will be contingent upon satisfactory academic progress. Satisfactory academic performance includes maintaining a grade point average that will meet the requirements of the Graduate School, and passing of Step 1 of the USMLE. During the graduate phase of the program, a stipend of $18,500 per year will be provided for each student and graduate tuition will be paid by a research grant or the Graduate School.

Scholarships/loans awarded under this program are converted to grants and are forgiven upon successful completion of the M.D./Ph.D. program. If a student fails to complete the program (e.g., due to poor scholarship or a change in career choice), the scholarships/loans will become payable 6 months after the completion of the Residency/Fellowship program or 6 months after termination of enrollment in the College of Medicine. Interest on these funds, which will be delineated on the appropriate promissory notes, will not exceed 5% above the federal discount rate.
HOW TO APPLY

FORMAL APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE M.D./Ph.D. SCHOLARSHIP/LOAN IS AWARDED. YOU MAY CONTACT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AT 501-686-5454.

Medical Students who have been accepted into Graduate School and are interested in applying for the M.D./Ph.D. Scholarship/Loan Program should submit the enclosed application to:

UAMS M.D./Ph.D. Scholarship/Loan Program Committee
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
4301 West Markham, Slot #511
Little Rock, AR 72205
Telephone: (501) 686-6368
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

APPLICATION
M.D./Ph.D. SCHOLARSHIP/LOAN PROGRAM

FULL NAME: ______________________________________ SS#: _______________________________

PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________

PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________

DATE OF BIRTH: ___________________ PHONE: ___________________ CITIZENSHIP: ____________

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE: ___________________________________________________________

MAJOR/DEGREE: _________________________________________________________________

MEDICAL SCHOOL STATUS:

APPLIED ___________________ ACCEPTED ___________________ MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 19____

GRADUATE SCHOOL AREA OF INTEREST:

NEUROBIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE ______ PHARMACOLOGY_____

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY______ PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS_____

INTERDISCIPLINARY TOXICOLOGY________ BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY_____

INTERDISCIPLINARY BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES________

RELEASE OF MEDICAL COLLEGE APPLICATION MATERIALS:

I hereby release all materials and information in my application and student files at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine to the UAMS Graduate School and to the M.D./Ph.D. Scholarship/Loan Program Committee. Application materials will remain confidential.

Signature: __________________________________________________________________________

Date: ___________________________