



**OCHSNER
HEALTH SYSTEM
INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM**



Overview

The Ochsner Health System Research Fellowship Program is designed specifically for qualified international medical graduates who are seeking to develop their research skills and to strengthen their residency portfolios with the long-term career goal of becoming a physician-scientist.

This program provides international medical graduates with the necessary skills to enhance their research careers and pursue graduate medical education in the United States. To date, Ochsner has hosted fourteen research fellows, twelve of whom have matched in a US or Canadian residency program. One of our research fellows includes the first Saudi Medical graduate to have been accepted in a US Neurosurgery residency training program.

At the end of the program, research fellows will be equipped with skills, abilities and documents (such as publications and letters of recommendations), to help them compete for U.S. residency positions.

During this program, research fellows will:

1. Develop long-lasting relationship with a medical faculty member who will serve as a mentor to provide guidance on career development, and who will help navigate through the MATCH process.
2. Create a network of professional contacts for future support in international medicine.
3. Develop critical thinking, analytical, and practical inquiry skills utilizing the latest approaches in the U.S. healthcare and medical research.
4. Develop a foundation for putting evidence-based medicine into practice and research.
5. Increase skills in critical appraisal, research design and understanding of the entire medical research process through participation in journal clubs with other fellows.
6. Potentially publish articles or abstracts in peer-reviewed journals, or present research posters or papers in conferences.
7. Gain first-hand knowledge of the U.S Healthcare System and medical higher education through observation shifts and exposure to the latest techniques and treatment procedures in the clinical area of interest.
8. Develop personal and group leadership skills necessary for advancement in clinical practice and research.
9. Develop strategies for communicating clinical research and medical information in spoken and writing English.
10. Gain broad public speaking and presentation experience, and participate in at least one professional conference in field of interest.
11. Develop competitive credentials for U.S. residency programs.
12. Obtain letters of recommendation from Ochsner Health System medical faculty when appropriate.

*****Please note that acceptance in Ochsner's International Research Fellowship Program does not guarantee residency positions*****

Program Structure

The Research Fellowship Program is administered by the Office of International Research.

Fellows begin the program on April 1st (exceptions may be made in special circumstances) and complete the program on May 31st of the following year. This timeline allows fellows to complete their research work at Ochsner, obtain letters of recommendation and apply on time for the MATCH.

In addition to working closely with their research mentors, fellows will present at bimonthly journal clubs and at quarterly research forums and also have the opportunity to attend a variety of tutorials in the Introduction to Clinical Research series at Ochsner. These tutorials are tailored each year to address the fellows' specific educational needs. Fellows are expected to attend all lectures, meetings, morning reports, grand rounds, and presentations organized by their designated departments.

Each fellow is required to fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative course.
- Select 2-3 retrospective and 1-2 prospective clinical studies.
- Submit and present abstracts at one regional and at one national meeting.
- Submit and (preferably) publish at least one scientific manuscript in an indexed journal.
- Successfully participate in bimonthly journal clubs and quarterly International Fellows Research Forums.



Application Process

In compliance with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission's regulations, eligible applicants must have successfully completed two out of the following three steps at the time of applying: USMLE Steps 1, 2CS and 2CK. At the time of applying, applicants must provide proof of the appointment confirmation of remaining exam.

To apply, [download the application](#). Interested and qualified applicants must submit one pdf with the required documents in the following order to Ms. Elison at InternationalAcademics@ochsner.org.

1. Attached application a headshot photo.
2. Curriculum vitae.
3. A one-page objective statement (12 point times new roman font, single spaced) detailing the applicant's academic and professional goals and objectives of the program.
4. Applicants must have successfully passed, on the first attempt, USMLE step 1 and step 2 CK scores ≥ 220 ; or USMLE step 1 score ≥ 220 **and one of the following:**
 - a. Pass USMLE Step 2 CS or
 - b. TOEFL score ≥ 100 or
 - c. IELTS overall band scores ≥ 7 (with no individual score below 6).

Applicants who have not taken USMLE step 2 CS must present proof, prior to the start of the program, that this exam has been scheduled.

5. A copy of medical degree and medical school transcripts.
6. Three letters of recommendation.
7. A financial guarantee letter from sponsoring institution that complies with the dates and duration of the program.

All documentation needs to be submitted no later than **January 15th, 2018** in order to be considered for a start date of **April 1st, 2018**.

Visas

Selected applicants will be issued a J-1 research fellow visa by Ochsner Clinic Foundation. Some of the restrictions of this J-1 visa (as set by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security) are highlighted below:

- Visa holders are only allowed to engage in activities related to basic, translational, and/or clinical research
- They can participate in academic activities of the department/program but cannot work in any capacity that could be construed as providing “clinical” care to patients.

Policies & Expectations

1. Attendance

- * If fellows have an urgent situation and cannot attend, they must contact their mentors and Ms. Elison (velison@ochsner.org) or Dr. Medina (Claudia.medinafiguero@ochsner.org)

All fellows are expected to attend and participate in:

- Journal Club Meetings;
- Monthly Meetings with International Office;
- Research Forums;
- Department Conferences, lecture series and activities;
- Rounds with clinical team and/or other clinical duties;
- Research classes.

2. Vacation Time

- Fellows are allowed four weeks of vacation. Fellows must obtain approval from mentors and Ms. Elison.
- If traveling outside of the United States, fellows must also provide Ms. Elison with specific details at least one week in advance, in accordance with the rules of the Department of Homeland Security.
- Fellows are allowed one day off for every residency interview in addition to the four week vacation time. Mentors and the International Office must be notified.

3. Time spent on research project(s)

- A minimum of 40 hours a week
- At the discretion of your mentor

4. Bi-monthly meetings with mentors

5. IRB

- All fellows must complete the IRB training course, specific to Ochsner, prior to participating in any research.

6. EPIC/PACS

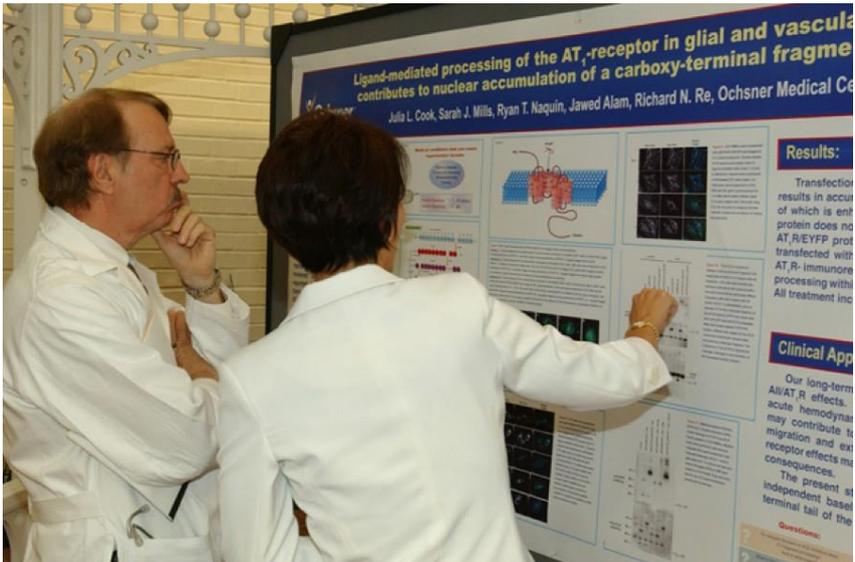
- All fellows are required to take an EPIC training course;
- Radiology fellows will also be trained for the PACS system.

7. Reachability

- Fellows must actively check emails and respond in a timely fashion;
- Fellows must also be reachable and should have US cell phone numbers.

8. Ochsner Policies and J-1 Handbook

- Fellows must adhere to all Ochsner Policies;
- Fellows must adhere to all regulations within the J-1 Visa Handbook.





Ochsner

ALTON OCHSNER, M.D.

1896 ~ 1981



Ochsner[®]

International