

UMMC Clinical Investigator Pathway (CIP)

CIP Goal: To provide highly qualified residents and fellows of various clinical specialties with supplementary training in research to establish an academic career at UMMC that includes a clinical/translational research focus.

CIP Program: This highly flexible program includes one or two years of integrated research time in an approved specialty residency or fellowship program. Trainees will have a dedicated research mentor and a customized curriculum through the graduate school that includes coursework in basic biostatistics, clinical trial design and implementation, and grant writing. The mentor and CIP committee will establish individual program milestones and monitor progress of each trainee. Before matriculating from the program, the trainee will write and submit a NIH or equivalent career development award.

Admission and Application Process: Exceptional candidates with academic qualifications and a track record in research who desire additional training as a clinician researcher will be evaluated on a case-by-case individual basis for an optimal fit to the CIP program. Applicants to a UMMC residency or fellowship program should indicate their interest in the CIP program by notifying both the Residency or Fellowship Program Director, the Departmental Research Director (Vice Chair of Research), and the Director of the CIP. The applicant will need to provide standard application materials (e.g. personal statement, C.V., transcript, letters of support, etc.). In addition to standard residency or fellowship interviews, the candidate will also interview with the Departmental Research Director and CIP committee members. For acceptance into the CIP program, the applicant will need final approval by both the CIP committee and the respective residency or fellowship program director.

Application Materials Checklist:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Personal statement that explains your interest in the becoming a clinical investigator at UMMC and your short and long-term career goals.
- Medical school and graduate school transcripts
- Letters of support that highlight your research experience and potential as a clinical investigator (must be sent directly from author to CIP administration)
- USMLE board scores and percentile rank

Other admissions info: An extra slot for each applicant will be created for the respective residency or fellowship program. Of note, the CIP program is not meant to support "extra" residents or fellows who simply have a strong background in research but little desire for turning that into an academic career at UMMC (see "CIP Goal" above). The CIP candidate will either compete with other CIP applicants for the same slot, if applicable, or can be offered a position outside of the standard match process. The CIP committee will carefully screen applicants for both research and clinical competency. A confirmatory letter of commitment from the CIP will be sent to each applicant who in turn will sign a letter of intent to the UMMC CIP program.

Recruitment: The CIP committee will actively work with the UMMC MSRP and MD PhD programs to recruit candidates but will also accept outside applicants who have exceptional qualifications and an intent to pursue a career at UMMC.

Funding: The clinical years will be funded by GME. The additional research years will be funded by the Office of Sponsored Research.

CIP Committee:

- Omar Abdulrahman MD
- Sean Didion PhD
- Joey Granger PhD
- Michael Griswold PhD
- Michael Hall MD
- Luis Juncos MD
- Michael Lehman PhD
- Michael Puskarich MD
- Shirley Schlessinger MD
- Andrew Smith MD PhD
- Richard Summers MD
- Jane Reckelhoff PhD

CIP Director:

- Andrew Smith MD PhD (asmith4@umc.edu)

CIP Administration:

- Katie Ocain (kocain@umc.edu)