Announcing the Schulich UWindsor Opportunities for Research Excellence Program (SWORP – 2018) for Windsor Campus Medical Students

Quick Facts:
- 29 funded projects since 2014
- 35 students have participated in SWORP-funded projects
- 22 distinct faculty mentors including 4 physicians
- Projects have led to presentations in Boston, Chicago, London, Montreal, San Diego, Vancouver, Williamsburg VA
- Recipients comments about SWORP: “valuable opportunity”, “wonderful experience”, “rewarding and insightful research experience”, “a great initiative”, “exciting”, “made me want research to be part of my studies and future career”, “I’ve learned the importance of collaboration and good note-taking”, “the importance of student initiative”

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry – Windsor Campus will soon launch its 2018 Schulich UWindsor Opportunities for Research Excellence Program (SWORP). The aim of SWORP is to enrich undergraduate medical education by enabling students from the Schulich Windsor Campus to engage in a research project under the supervision of a University of Windsor Faculty Member/Research Mentor. SWORP will provide funding for medical students to undertake a research project in any health-related area: biomedical, medical, or health-related research including basic, clinical, health services or education research. SWORP is a jointly sponsored by Western University and the University of Windsor.

The program is intended to foster an appreciation for and proficiency with the research process. It will complement other existing programs at Schulich Medicine to foster student research. It is hoped that this program will provide an opportunity for students to learn how research is conducted and will encourage medical students to incorporate research activities into their future career plans.

Faculty members from across the University of Windsor are invited to participate. Requests may be for new projects, or for projects which build on prior research activities. The project must be located at the University of Windsor, Schulich-Windsor, or at a Distributed Medical Education site. Projects that are primarily public service in nature, while worthwhile, are not eligible for this student research support. Funding will also not be provided for projects required for existing courses.

Undergraduate medical students currently enrolled in their 1st or 2nd year within the Windsor Campus of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, are eligible to apply. Undergraduate medical students based in London, BSc or BMSc students, postgraduate trainees, graduate students in Schulich departments, and University of Windsor students, are not eligible for this program. Medical students who hold a M.Sc. and wish to apply may not work in the same
laboratory where they received their graduate training. Faculty members are not eligible to submit applications by themselves.

As a first step in connecting Faculty Members/Research Mentors and students, Faculty Members/Research Mentors interested in serving as supervisors for a SWORP project have been asked to provide a brief expression of interest via email to Ms. Michelle Miglietta mmigliet@uwindsor.ca by Friday, November 24, 2017. This information will be shared with the medical students as a first pass into the possible research projects available to them.

Note that several physicians have faculty appointments at the University of Windsor. Physicians can participate in SWORP research projects even if they are not UWindsor faculty members; your research team can include whomever you want but it must have a UWindsor faculty member to act as the project’s main sponsor.

**One project (funded by a private donor) is possible without a UWindsor faculty mentor but it must somehow be connected to cancer/oncology. We have included it here as it will be adjudicated in the same manner as SWORP submissions. Other projects are possible depending on funding availability.**

A question and answer session will be arranged for Year 1 and Year 2 students in the near future. Watch for additional details. **Student initiative is encouraged to arrange projects!**

**Award Amount:** Ten awards in the amount of $5,000 will be available.

**Award Duration:** In most cases, awards will be 18 months in duration.

Projects funded in 2017 include the following projects:

- Socio-economic impact of a regional medical campus in Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- Assessing baseline factors that affect neurocognitive testing in paediatric concussions
- Exercise as a treatment option for children with ADHD: An observational study
- Diversity and cancer outcomes in Windsor
- Spinal cord mannequin design and build project
- Evaluating and understanding interprofessional contributions to small group learning in pre-clerkship medical education: A mixed methods approach
- The association of nutritional risk assessment of Emergency Department patients and hospital admission/discharge
- Predictors of post-concussion psychiatric symptomatology
- The role of Spy 1 in liver metabolism and tumor development
- Getting the best GRIP on high blood pressure: Does GRIP type matter?
- Pattern of use of immunotherapy in ON for various lung cancers and home care and ER visits during the treatment
- A genome-wide expression screen of circadian controlled genes