



THE ALAN GLEITSMAN STUDENT RESEARCH FUND IN PALLIATIVE CARE

The Alan Gleitsman Student Research Fund in Palliative Care provides financial support of \$3,000 for a medical student's summer learning in the Palliative Care Program. Students may, for example, work with faculty of The Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics on a research project, and/or see hospital patients with the Palliative Care Team in the hospital to gain a better understanding of the nature of palliative care, the therapies associated with it, and the benefits it can provide to patients and families.

All medical students at The University of Pittsburgh are eligible to apply for support from the Alan Gleitsman Student Research Fund in Palliative Care. While students typically have the most flexibility for summer projects between their first and second year, more senior students who are devoting elective time to their Scholarly Projects should also consider an application. Only U.S. residents are eligible to receive the stipend and current University of Pittsburgh employees are not eligible to receive the stipend.

To apply for an award from the Alan Gleitsman Student Research Fund in Palliative Care, students should submit a proposal of a maximum of two single-spaced pages, consisting of the following sections:

1. **Purpose** Explain the overall goals and objectives of the summer learning experience you envision with the Palliative Care Program. If your primary interest is **clinical observation**, explain how this experience will fit with your overall plans for medical school and for your medical career. If your primary interest is in **research**, describe the research question that you are interested in pursuing, and explain how the research is related to your overall plans for medical school and for your medical career.
2. **Background and Significance** For **clinical observation**, describe aspects of your background, preparation for a medical career, and clinical experiences that you believe will enable you to take advantage of the summer learning program. For **research**, describe the background, context, and previous studies that are the foundation for your proposed project. Explain why the questions you are interested in are important. How will answering your research questions lead to improved care for patients and families?

3. **Methods** For **research**, describe the methods you plan to use to collect primary data, or to analyze secondary data in order to help you answer your research questions. Describe any special arrangements you will need to make to gain access to a study population or data set, and include documentation that these arrangements will be in place for your project. Describe any special qualifications or skills you have acquired through your education and training that will help you to carry out your project. Though students electing to concentrate on **clinical observation** do not need to include a Methods section in their application, they will be expected to write an essay based on their summer experience in which they describe and analyze cases histories of patients with whom they interacted, and explain how these interactions have helped in their preparation for a medical career.
4. **Mentor** For **research**, indicate the faculty member who has agreed to serve as your research mentor, and include a letter from him or her stating this. For **clinical observation**, identify a palliative care clinical mentor in your application and include a letter of support from this person. To locate a list of palliative care faculty go to <http://www.dept-med.pitt.edu/dgim/spc/>.
5. **Deadline**: April 1, 2020. **Awards in mid- May 2020.** Send complete applications to Colleen Kosky at koskycj@upmc.edu. For questions, contact Yael Schenker, MD, MAS, at yas28@pitt.edu.