

Internal Medicine Residency Research Curriculum

Each resident must prepare a research project and give a presentation before their graduation. The Research Curriculum is organized and supervised by Dr. John Foxworth. The different elements of the curriculum are located on our password protected residency website (Blackboard, a web-based resource). It is composed of several elements:

1. Research Advisors—the faculty in the Department of Medicine are years surveyed to update their research interests and willingness to serve as mentors. Twenty-six faculty are on our current list. Residents must identify a research mentor by the end of their PGY1 year.
2. Research Proposals—In the Fall of the PGY2 year, residents must submit their research proposal, and should be working on developing the methodology with their research mentor.

Also, during the Fall, Dr. Foxworth has a course called Medical Decision Making, which covers the different types of studies. The course is offered to residents and fellows in the evening. It is optional, but several residents take part yearly.

3. IRB Approval—the residents must obtain IRB approval for their projects, and in so doing, must complete an On-line Training about Ethics in Research. The coursework covers the Tuskegee Experiments, Nuremberg, and all issues surrounding Informed Consent. Residents must pass a multiple-choice question exam.

A sample IRB submission is available to residents on our website.

4. The majority of residents use one or more of their three electives to work on their research project. The curriculum for a research elective is on our residency Blackboard website and includes the following elements:
 - a. At least 40 hours per week should be spent working while on this elective.
 - b. The resident must meet with the faculty before the rotation begins. to come to agreement upon the feasibility of the elective and its purpose, to present his/her objectives for the month, and complete the elective form.
 - c. The resident must watch the video in Blackboard (conferences, conference videos) titled “Getting started in Research.”
 - d. contact with the faculty should be maintained during the month with at a minimum weekly meetings.
5. Progress Report for their project is due in the Spring of the PGY2 year.
6. The resident must present their finalized project in the Spring of their PGY3 year.

Videos of best presentations in previous years may be played from our residency Blackboard website. Likewise examples of excellent poster presentations are

posted on the website for residents to emulate when preparing for national or regional research meetings.

A spreadsheet is used to track the progress of each resident to ensure that they meet the required deadlines.

Another facet of our research curriculum is encouraging and supporting resident participation at professional meetings, for instance the Missouri chapter of the American College of Physicians fall meeting. In 2007, 15 posters were presented by our residents. To help them, examples of quality posters were placed at an electronic site for their review as they created their own posters. Also, we held a meeting for the participants where two faculty members reviewed each resident's poster, and they, as well as the resident peers, offered constructive criticism.