

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PRECISION Pain Research Registry

Clinical Research Fellowship Program

TCOM Class of 2024

1. Who is eligible to participate in the fellowship program?

We offer the program to medical students who successfully complete their first year at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spring 2021 (Class of 2024) because they will have time during their summer break to commit to research training. Students in TCOM who participate in other sponsored research programs during Summer 2021 will not be eligible for the fellowship program.

2. How will acceptance into the program be determined?

Our application process begins with an online form. Fall 2020 grades will also be considered in making acceptance decisions. Each completed form will be reviewed and competitive applicants will be invited for an interview to further discuss their research interests.

3. What will be the timetable for acceptance decisions and confirmations?

The application form deadline is January 4, 2021. We anticipate making acceptance decisions following receipt of Fall 2020 grades from the Registrar's Office and interviews. An accepted student must confirm his/her position within 5 business days. Any withdrawals after confirmation will adversely impact our program and potentially hamper our ability to select an alternate fellow from the Class of 2024.

4. How many fellows will be accepted in the program?

We anticipate accepting up to 12 fellows in the program beginning in Summer 2021. We may accept more or fewer students depending on the applicant pool and funding availability.

5. What if I want to take time off during the summer?

We expect fellows to attend the entire 3-week Summer Didactic component, which will be offered remotely via Zoom. Thus, fellows will not be required to remain in Fort Worth to participate in the Summer Didactic component. Nevertheless, the research training is heavily "front-loaded" in this Summer Didactic component of the fellowship and it is critical that students participate in all scheduled activities which normally occur weekdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and also on selected afternoons. Students may schedule summer vacations and other extended leaves after June 25, 2021. We understand that rarely a student may be unable to attend program activities because of illness or an unexpected emergency. However, unexcused absences may result in a reduction of the fellowship stipend and/or dismissal from the program.

6. What must I do to receive the \$500 stipend?

A fellow must successfully complete the Summer Didactic component by participating in all scheduled sessions and assigned activities and in the team research project.

7. Are there any other financial benefits associated with the fellowship?

There are no fringe benefits other than the fellowship stipend. We will provide complimentary textbook(s) and materials. We will also pay for a team research project poster to be presented at Research Appreciation Day in 2022.

8. What must I do to receive the fellowship certificate?

The certificate requires successful completion of the Summer Didactic component, team research project, and all related activities as determined by the Program Director.

9. May I continue to work with the registry following completion of the research project?

Yes, we hope that fellows will continue to promote and work with our registry as they progress through their clinical rotations and potentially into residency training. Registry data may be made available to fellows for additional research in conjunction with the Program Director.

10. What are the research priorities of the registry?

The registry currently focuses on research that is responsive to many needs identified in the [Federal Pain Research Strategy](#). These include the following areas:

- Chronic pain epidemiology
- Genetic aspects of chronic pain, including response to drug therapy based on pharmacogenetics
- Health disparities relating to chronic pain
- Biopsychosocial aspects of chronic pain, including pain catastrophizing and pain self-efficacy
- Non-pharmacological interventions for chronic pain
- Pharmacological interventions for chronic pain, including safety and effectiveness of opioids and NSAIDs
- Remotely supported chronic pain management interventions (eHealth)
- Use of precision medicine to advance chronic pain management
- Patient functioning and quality of life in relation to chronic pain
- Physician-patient interactions relating to chronic pain, including interpersonal manner, empathy, and communication style.

11. What is the recruitment process for registry participants?

Our registry now encompasses the 48 contiguous states and District of Columbia. Over 6,000 participants have screened for the registry and its affiliated control panel using our digital research platform, and over 1,000 participants have enrolled as of August 2020.

12. What types of data are available for research through the registry?

We use an extensive battery of validated research instruments when participants enroll in the registry and at quarterly follow-up encounters. These provide data on pain characteristics, spinal and medical comorbidities, pain sensitivity, pain catastrophizing, pain self-efficacy, pain treatments, physician-patient interactions, and clinical outcomes involving pain intensity, physical functioning, and quality of life. Some participants have now provided over 4 years of follow-up data. We routinely collect saliva samples for DNA sequencing from all participants when they enroll in the registry or control panel and these are then banked for future studies relating to chronic pain epidemiology and management.