

Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity
Wake Forest University School of Medicine

CALL FOR MEDICAL STUDENT HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCHERS

The Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity is pleased to announce the availability of funds to support medical student summer research projects focusing on minority health and health disparities. Funds are available to support **two students** for 10 – 12 consecutive weeks at the NIH stipend rate of \$1,731 per calendar month.

The Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine was established in 2002 to address minority health and the national tragedy of racial and ethnic health disparities. The mission of the Center is based on the principle that disease is not only a biological phenomenon, but the result of complex social, political, economic, and cultural influences. Overall, the Center's aim is to improve wellness and quality of life for minorities through multidisciplinary research and evaluation, community outreach, and minority student and faculty development.

Research project proposals will be accepted from WFUSM medical students that meet the following criteria:

- A focus on improving minority health or addressing, reducing, or eliminating health disparities, particularly for the 6 major health disparity areas identified by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, immunizations and infant mortality)
- Projects must include a Maya Angelou Center Affiliate faculty member as a mentor. A listing of Center Affiliates can be found at <http://www1.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth/FacStaff/CenterFaculty.htm>

Proposals must be in the format required by the Medical Student Research Program (see below) and include the name of the faculty mentor. Funded students are required to prepare a poster to present research findings at the Medical Student Research Day on October 8, 2008. For second, third, and fourth year students, it is necessary to arrange an appropriate modification of your clinical rotation schedule to allow 10 -12 consecutive weeks for research.

Proposals must be received by March 20th. Please send an electronic copy in Adobe pdf format to Ms. Winona Gilbert (wgilbert@wfubmc.edu), or by mail to her attention at the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, Wake Forest University Health Sciences, Winston-Salem, NC 27157. For queries regarding the suitability of specific projects, please contact Dr. Ronny Bell, Director, at rbell@wfubmc.edu or (336) 716-9736 or 713-7611.

Proposal Format

I. APPLICATION COVER PAGE

The cover page should include a title, and signature of the faculty sponsor(s) and student. Include your highest academic degree (B.S., M.S., Ph.D., etc), the institution from which it was awarded, and your current medical school class.

II. BODY OF APPLICATION (Use no smaller than an 11 font)

1. Objective and Specific Aims - What do you propose to do? What disparate population and condition will be included in this project? (one typewritten page).
2. Background and Literature (do not exceed two pages).[#]
3. Research Plan Description - How will you accomplish the specific aims? (two to three typewritten pages).[#]
4. Student's Role - If you will carry out your research as part of a larger project in which your faculty sponsor and/or other people will also participate, indicate your role in the project and be specific. (Do not exceed one-half page).
5. Sponsor's Role (to be completed by the faculty sponsor) - Briefly describe the ways in which the faculty sponsor will guide the research training.
6. Bibliography
7. Career Relevance - Briefly describe how you believe this research experience might fit into your future career goals.
8. Previous Research Experience - What research experience have you had in this area or in any other area? (including undergraduate research). Be brief. If you have had no previous research exposure, indicate none.

[#] Cutting and pasting verbatim from the sponsor's grant, etc. is neither acceptable nor ethical.