

RESIDENT RESEARCH

Research Rotations

PGY 2 and 3 Residents may take a one-month research rotation as an elective. The Resident Research Committee must approve the research project. This is done via an application form which is available in the attachment panel on the left-hand side of the screen (paperclip icon). The application must be submitted as early as possible, and not later than two months prior to the start of the rotation. Applications are submitted to the DoM Research Office and reviewed by the DoM Resident Research Committee. Successful applicants are notified of the Committee's approval of the rotation.

Research Academic Half-Days

At least two DoM PGY 2-3 academic half-days per year are dedicated to research. A research orientation session is held with the PGY1s at orientation.

PGY1 Research Methods Course

The Department has instituted a mandatory research methods course for all core PGY1 residents. The registration fee for the course is provided by the Department. This interactive course provides a research orientation and works through relevant examples of research questions from idea to completion to demonstrate how local research projects work. In 2020-21, the course will run on the PGY1 academic half-days from October 13-November 10. Residents are asked to develop a question to be explored over the length of the course. Evaluations will be distributed to residents at the end of the course – please ensure that these are completed, as it provides valuable information to the DoM Resident Research Committee for planning future courses.

Research Events

The Department of Medicine typically hosts two research events each year: Research Evening and Research Day. In 2019-20, due to COVID-19, Research Day was indefinitely postponed. The DoM Research Committee is in the process of determining how and when this event may be reorganized, and as well is considering format changes that may be necessary for the events in the 2020-21 year. More information will be distributed via email to faculty and residents when available.

DoM Research Evening

The Department of Medicine Research Evening normally takes place in the fall. The evening session highlights new and established faculty research programs, and provides a chance to learn more about the interesting and varied research projects that are being completed by Department members. It provides an opportunity for residents to learn more about what research is being done in the DoM.

DoM Research Day

The Department normally holds Research Day in the spring. This event celebrates resident, student, faculty, and staff research being done in the Department with a mix of oral and poster presentations. The call for abstracts normally goes out in November, with a deadline in January. Submissions can include solely preliminary data, a literature review to identify a knowledge gap to be addressed by your research project, a case report, etc. Point is, you don't have to have all (or any!) answers to be able to submit – just a good question! It is a great networking opportunity and a way to learn about other research initiatives in the Department. Prizes (\$350) are awarded for the best presentations. The top five presentations go forward to the Faculty of Medicine Research Day.

RMU/ DoM Research Office Database and Biostatistician Consultant Services

The Department of Medicine and the NSHA/IWK/Dal Research Methods Unit (RMU) collaborate in the provision of research methods consulting services. In order to facilitate this partnership, DoM consultants Kara Matheson, Biostatistician; and Chris Theriault, Research Database Specialist, work within the RMU.

The DoM has a system of 'credits' which provides free access to a broad range of consulting support, including quantitative and qualitative research design, research methods, data management and data analysis from the RMU.

Subject to approval from the DoM Research Office, DoM researchers who make use of RMU consulting services can use these DoM credits if they do not have external funding. DoM investigators who have external funding to cover consulting may be invoiced by the RMU on a cost-recovery basis (\$100/hour).

Requests for consulting services are submitted through the Research Methods Unit via a Consult Request form and projects are assigned to the consultant(s) most appropriate to their project. DoM researcher requests for specific consultants are accommodated as much as possible.

For further information and to access the RMU Consult and Request form:

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-methods-unit>

Financial Support

There are several research related opportunities for residents which offer cash prizes. These include the DoM Resident Research Day, the Faculty of Medicine Resident Research Awards, and the Resident Research Excellence and Resident Research Publication Awards.

Not all resident research will be funded in a formal manner, so if your idea does not already have funding this does not necessarily prevent you from doing the project. It is anticipated that, for most small projects, little financial support is required and may be available from within the Divisional or individual's research budget.

DoM:

The DoM Resident Research Committee and DoM Research Committee have developed the attached Resident Funding Pathway document, and related UIMRF Resident Research Funding Application Form, to assist in navigating funding opportunities.

Please also see the attachment panel for a copy of the Department of Medicine Resident Travel Policy and Research Travel Form.

Nova Scotia Health Authority:

The Research Fund has trainee award competition grants up to a maximum of \$5,000. It supports the Health Authority's mission of putting patients first and achieving, through constant improvement and commitment to quality and patient safety, excellence in care and services.

For the application guidelines, form and deadlines:

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton>

Dalhousie University:

For information on Dalhousie University scholarship and awards, including the Killam Scholarship:

<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/postgraduate/calendar/fellowships-scholarships.html>

Nova Scotia Health Authority

Research Ethics Board (REB)

Within the NSHA, all research projects involving patients, staff, resources or data must be reviewed by the NSHA Research Ethics Board (REB) before the research begins. This requirement also applies to research involving human participants, human biological materials as well as human embryos, fetuses, fetal tissue, reproductive materials and stem cells.

For the REB ethics approval submission, checklist and letter of submission forms:
<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/ethics>

The navigation tool for PHIA and REB compliance for research vs quality improvement projects can be found in the attachment panel.

Time management at this stage is important. Developing the REB application (in addition to the protocol) can take weeks to months, depending on how detailed the proposal is, and whether you have help. A case report REB submission can take 10 hours the first time you do it and needs multiple revisions by your supervisor. A chart review REB submission (or something more involved) can realistically take 20 or more hours even if your protocol is mostly written. Once you have submitted, depending on whether your application requires a full or partial review, this process can take a week to a month. Then there are often clarifications/revisions/stipulations that need to be addressed and resubmitted before final approval will be granted and your research can begin. The take home message: this step takes time. It is never a 'put it together in one night' kind of thing!

Nova Scotia Health Authority

Research Services

Information on NSHA Research Services is available on the NSHA Intranet:

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/about>

Scholarly Activity during Residency

All residents in the Internal Medicine Training Program are required to be involved in scholarly activity.

Scholarly activity is broadly defined as activity which enhances the resident's medical knowledge. These activities can include, but not be restricted to, the following: literature reviews, chart reviews, quality assurance projects, formal clinical or basic science research projects, and participation in clinical trials.

The Residency Training Committee evaluates all projects using the Research In-training Evaluation Report (RITER). The Department member supervising the resident's project is responsible for filling out the research evaluation form. The evaluation and a copy of the project will be submitted to both the Department Residency Training Committee and the Resident Research Committee.

As a minimum, for residents in the first two years, a case report or literature review is required annually. For third and fourth year residents, a more formal basic science, clinical research study or quality assurance project is required. Major projects that extend over more than one year would be considered to fulfill the requirements for research in both or all years depending on the nature of the project, with such decisions being made by the Resident Research Committee in conjunction with the Program Director.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS**PGY1 and PGY2*****Annually***

- Case Report, or
- Literature Review

PGY3 and PGY4

- Research Project, or
- Quality Assurance Project

All Years

- Evaluation (RITER)
- Research Activity Profile

RESIDENT SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

- * CPC and Grand Rounds
- * Quality Assurance Projects
- * Case Reports
- * Literature Reviews
- * Medical Book Reviews
- * Formal Clinical/Basic Science Projects
- * Participation in Clinical Trials

For additional information and resources, please visit the DoM Resident Research Website at:
<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/department-sites/medicine/research/resident-research.html>

**Please do not hesitate to contact the Research Office
with any/all questions.**

902-473-6696 Room 450, Bethune Building

DoMResearch@nshealth.ca

RESEARCH RESOURCES

DoM Research Office

DoM Resident Research Committee

Dr. Ravi Ramjeesingh, Co-Chair
Ravi.Ramjeesingh@nshealth.ca

Dr. Leah Cahill, Co-Chair
Leah.Cahill@nshealth.ca

Research Program Admin Coordinator

Heather Fraser
DoMResearch@nshealth.ca
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Room 450, Bethune Building

NSHA/IWK/Dal Research Methods Unit (RMU)

Daniela Meier, Manager
Daniela.Meier@nshealth.ca
RMU@nshealth.ca
902-473-2949

Chris Theriault, Database Consultant
Contact via RMU

Kara Matheson, Bio-statistician
Contact via RMU

NSHA Research Ethics

If you are unsure of your project status or have REB questions, please contact the REB -
ResearchEthics@nshealth.ca

Central Zone Research Services

Michelle Roden
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902-473-7906
Room 117, Centre for Clinical Research

Jennifer Thurlow
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1st Floor, Centre for Clinical Research

Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine

Medical Research Development Office

Sara Lavender, Director
Sara.Lavender@Dal.Ca
Room C-242, CRC Building
5849 University Avenue

Dalhousie Clinical Investigator Program (CIP)

Gerald Power, Medical Research Development Office
Gerald.Power@dal.ca
Room C222, CRC Building

Dalhousie CIP

Enrollment Requirements

The CIP is available to medical residents enrolled in Royal College-accredited specialty or subspecialty residency programs at Dalhousie Medical School. To take part in a resident CIP, you must also enroll in a Master's or PhD program through the Dalhousie Faculty of Graduate Studies. <https://medicine.dal.ca/research-dal-med/capacity/cip.html>

Deadlines for Application

CIP - December 15

DoM sponsorship application deadline: October 1 – via UIMRF Internal Fellowship competition.
Contact: Heather Fraser, DoMResearch@nshealth.ca

Resources for Residents can be found online at:

<https://goo.gl/8Faz5o>

(if you encounter difficulties opening on NSHA Internet Explorer, please copy/paste link into Chrome or Firefox)

Resident Research Supervisor Database

Included in the attachment panel is a copy of the 2020 Resident Research Supervisor Database. This list includes members of the Department of Medicine who have indicated that they would potentially supervise a resident in a research project or case report, or who have active research projects open. We hope this will be of assistance to you, and provide a snapshot of the work occurring within the Department. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and is a resource only – a matchmaking process is not in place.