Active clinical, translational or basic research investigators are invited to participate in the Discovery Phase of the Emory Medical School curriculum by serving as mentors for a medical student research project. Discovery is a required part of the curriculum during which medical students have a 5 month period devoted entirely to a focused, hypothesis-driven scholarly project. During Discovery, which occurs after completion of the Applications Phase of clinical rotations, students have no responsibilities aside from their research projects and relevant activities. Therefore, projects must be substantial enough to merit 5 months of full time effort.

Mentors are crucial to the success of Discovery. Because experienced research mentors are essential, mentors must meet two criteria: 1. authored at least 5 peer-reviewed, research publications and 2. served as Principle Investigator on a funded, peer-reviewed grant within the past 3 years (2013-2015). This could be an internal Emory grant, pharmaceutical or device company funding, private foundation funding, or CDC or other federal research grant such as NIH or NSF. Faculty who do not meet these requirements may participate as part of a mentoring team headed by a qualified lead mentor.

Faculty may serve as lead mentor for only one student per class as Discovery requires a significant time commitment. Mentors are expected to meet at least weekly with their Discovery student and to advise on preparation of their research proposal, data collection and analysis, and preparation of a final Discovery paper. Final papers must be representative of 5 months of research effort.

The Class of 2017 must select their mentor and project by December 15, 2015 and will begin their Discovery Phase research in the spring of 2016. Depending on the student’s schedule, Discovery consists of a continuous 5 month block or 4 months with 1 subsequent month. All 5 months must be completed by
December 2016 and final papers will be due mid-January, 2017.

For more information on Discovery, see the Discovery main page at: https://secure.web.emory.edu/med/prod/FMA/index.cfm

To submit a project to the database, go to the mentor’s page at: https://secure.web.emory.edu/med/prod/database/discovery/faculty.cfm

You will need a brief description of the project (2000 characters or less) and a current CV (preferably in NIH biosketch format) with bibliography and funding information. You must include grant information (funding agency, title, dates in effect). Projects should be submitted by September 17, 2015.

Projects will be reviewed and posted to the database which will be opened to the students at the end of September. Students will be able to view these potential projects at the Discovery website and will contact faculty to discuss projects in further detail.

Thanks in advance for your dedication to our students! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need further information.

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