

Corneal Medical Student Research Fellowship

Description: The Corneal Medical Student Research Fellowship (FT52) is designed to give medical students planning to apply to ophthalmology residency an opportunity to build substantial clinical research experience to bolster their application. Fellows take 12 months out of their medical school curriculum, typically between their second- and third-year of medical school to work closely with the Corneal and Contact Lens faculty members in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank on clinical research projects pertaining to corneal transplant surgery outcomes, contact lens outcomes, keratorefractive outcomes, infectious keratitis outcomes, ocular surface tumor outcomes, and the outcomes of myriad external diseases that affect the eye.

The fellowship was established to honor Dr. Michael Wagoner, a former director of the Cornea division at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics and Medical Director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, and his long-standing commitment to providing a stimulating clinical research experience for medical trainees.

The fellowship preceptors are Drs. Mark Greiner and Christopher Sales, who in addition to their respective laboratory and device research, conduct a wide array of retrospective and prospective clinical studies. This fellowship focuses on clinical research.

Selected medical students perform the 12-month Corneal Fellowship after either their M2 or M3 years. Fellows typically start their research year in July and return to their clerkships 12 months later. Students must be in excellent academic standing to be eligible.

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Support: The Corneal Fellowship provides an annual stipend of \$30,000. During the fellowship year, students are registered with the College of Medicine to maintain health insurance, a cost paid by the fellowship award. The Corneal Fellowship also provides funds to attend a national scientific meeting directly related to one of the Fellow's research projects.

Application: Medical students interested in the Corneal Fellowship should submit the following by email to Dr. Christopher Sales (Christopher-Sales@uiowa.edu):

- Current CCOM transcript
- Current CV
- Personal statement

Application material is due February 10. Applications do not need to identify a clinical research project. Multiple research projects are already available in the Cornea division and will be assigned to the Fellow. The personal statement should highlight any prior research experience, state the motivation for performing a year-long research fellowship, and indicate how a research fellowship may influence future career goals, which need not be academic. Personal statements should indicate the applicant's level of commitment to applying to ophthalmology residency. The goal of the fellowship is not only to provide exposure to ophthalmology and to clinical research, but also to provide an opportunity for research distinction to make the Fellow a more competitive residency applicant. All Fellowship applicants are interviewed by the selection committee.

Contact: Students interested in applying or learning more about the Corneal Fellowship are welcome to contact Dr. Christopher Sales at Christopher-Sales@uiowa.edu.