

Submitted by: Margaret E. Winters, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT PROGRAM WITH THE DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a joint degree program leading to both a Doctor of Medicine and a Master of Science in Medical Research, effective fall 2016.

### **Background**

The Doctor of Medicine and Master of Science in Medical Research joint degree program is a combined effort of the School of Medicine's Medical Education (MD) program and the Master of Science in Medical Research (MSMDR) program, housed in the School of Medicine's Office of Biomedical Graduate Programs. This joint degree program will be offered through the School of Medicine's Office of Biomedical Graduate Programs.

### **Program Description**

Due to the intensity of their educational schedule, Wayne State University medical students have limited opportunities to engage in research. Nevertheless, research experience is becoming increasingly desirable in the competition for high quality medical residencies and to foster careers in academic medicine. Although the School of Medicine has taken various steps to increase student involvement in research, these have provided a limited research exposure (10 to 12 weeks). To further expand research opportunities and to create a path focused toward concerted, original, hypothesis-driven research experiences, a joint degree program leading to the awarding of both the Medical Doctor and Master of Science in Medical Research degrees is proposed.

The Master of Science in Medical Research (MSMDR) Program requires a thesis based on original research. As currently constituted, the Master of Science in Medical Research Program aims to provide education and training in basic and/or clinical scientific research to individuals who have a professional medical (MD or DO), dental (DDS) or pharmaceutical (DPharm) degree and are actively pursuing post-graduate clinical training at Wayne State University or an affiliated organization. The modification introduced here is that the new program will provide this research/educational opportunity to our current medical students.

### **Admission Requirements**

Students applying to the Medical Doctor and Master of Science in Medical Research joint degree program must be second or third year students in good standing in the Wayne State University Doctor of Medicine program. They should apply to the joint degree program by the end of December in their second or third year of medical school. Applicants must also meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School. Students who have completed the Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship (MSSRF) are especially encouraged to apply.

### **Curriculum Requirements**

The Wayne State University School of Medicine has an established and comprehensive set of competencies and institutional learning objectives for the Medical Doctor program. These are

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outlined at: <http://www.med.wayne.edu/educational%5Fprograms/form.asp>. Curricular requirements from the medical school perspective are unchanged.

The Master of Science in Medical Research Program has the following degree requirements: 30 graduate credits, including 8 credits of Master's Thesis Research; two core courses from a number of different subject areas; and elective courses sufficient to complete the degree requirements in accordance with a Plan of Work developed in consultation with the thesis advisor and approved by the Program Director.

No credits from the Medical Research program will be counted towards the MD degree. However, a total of 12 credits from the Doctor of Medicine program will be (double) counted towards the Master of Science in Medical Research degree. Doctor of Medicine credits to be counted towards the Master of Science in Medical Research degree include:

- MD 5200 (Biochemistry - 6 credits)
- MD 5300 (Physiology - 6 credits).

### **Graduation Requirements**

All coursework must be completed in accordance with the regulations of Wayne State University's Medical and Graduate Schools.

### **Program Administration**

The School of Medicine's Office of Biomedical Graduate programs administers the existing MSMDR program. The same office will administer the Medical Doctor and Master of Science in Medical Research joint degree program. The co-directors of the joint program (currently identified as Noreen Rossi, M.D., and Michael Bannon, Ph.D.) serve at the pleasure of the School of Medicine's Associate Dean of Biomedical Graduate Programs, who will appoint subsequent program Directors. The co-directors will oversee the day-to-day operations of the program, with administrative support provided by existing staff within the Office of Biomedical Graduate programs.

### **Budget and Resource Requirements**

No additional resources or staff are required to maintain the program.

### **Accreditation**

The Medical Doctor program is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. The Master of Science program in Medical Research is not accredited.

### **Approvals**

The proposal was approved at the School of Medicine by the Dean, the Vice Deans of Medical Education and Research, the Associate Dean of Biomedical Graduate Programs, and the Director of the Basic Medical Sciences program. The joint proposal was also approved by the Graduate Council, the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Office of the Provost.