OMSA Guide for Research Participation
Ochsner MD Phase 2 Students

Approval to participate in research:

Before you commit to a project or supervisor, you must gain approval to participate in research at Ochsner by completing the following steps. Consider getting these done before you get too busy in the semester; it will save time when you have identified a project and mentor.

- Obtain confirmation that you are in good academic standing and meet requirements for research participation.
  - To obtain confirmation of status, register here: https://is.gd/UQ_student_research

- Register with Ochsner's Internal Review Board by creating an eIRB account: eIRB link
  - Click "Login" and "Request New Account"
  - If you are joining an ongoing research project, your mentor can assist with adding you to the current IRB protocol once you are registered with eIRB.

- Ethics training is required to participate in research at Ochsner. Training can be completed online through the CITI program: CITI Training Instructions
  - Training is free when you affiliate with Ochsner Clinic Foundation.
  - Training takes multiple hours but does not have to be completed in one session.
  - Complete the Basic Course.

Finding a mentor:

Students cannot serve as PIs on research studies and must work with a mentor.

- Consider reaching out to Student Interest Groups – they often have their finger on the pulse of new and updated research opportunities.

- Ask the attendings and residents while rotating – they may have projects they are seeking help with but have not registered.

- It is highly recommended that students join an existing project. The wheels of research turn very slowly and while it is exciting for students to develop their own research question and protocol, it can take significant time.

- Take a look at posted projects on the Ochsner Student Research Hub of the Student Research Portal: Ochsner Mentor Projects.

- If you need assistance, reach out to Dr. Courtney Parke, courtney.parke@ochsner.org, Director for Student Research.

Approval to start a new research project:

If students are working with a mentor to begin a new investigator-initiated project instead of joining an existing project, note the following:

- Only your mentor can submit an IRB protocol, and your role as a student is to assist with mentor-led research, not to develop and/or lead new studies.
- Studies must have a well-formulated and testable hypothesis, measurable outcomes, and a statistical plan. Note that all investigator-initiated projects will be pre-screened by a review committee prior to moving forward for IRB review.
- Submission via eIRB and approval by the IRB is required prior to beginning research activities.

For additional questions and guidance, contact Dr. Courtney Parke, courtney.parke@ochsner.org.

Register your research:

All UQ-Ochsner medical students must register any research they are involved in during their MD program via the Student Research Portal: Register Research Project

- Research must be registered when you begin.

Reporting your achievements:

Once your project is complete, report your achievements (i.e., publications, abstracts, presentations) via the Student Research Portal: Report Research Achievements.

Reported research achievements will be included in:

- Research Letter: an official document acknowledging your research accomplishments beyond what is required for the MD degree. This is not a part of the Dean's Letter but instead is a separate supportive document signed by the UQ Medical School Dean.
- Society Cup Points: reported achievements will tally for society cup points.

Don't forget to include abstracts/publications on your CV/resume: Ochsner CV Template

More questions? Contact:

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