

**Academy of Distinguished Educators
University of Virginia School of Medicine**

**Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Research Grants
Request for Proposals — Deadline: Monday, May 4, 2009**

The Academy announces its sixth round of grants for research in medical education. Support is limited to research related to the education of undergraduate medical students (UME).

Types of Research Funded: As of this year there will be a change in the type of research proposals accepted. There will be two categories of proposals accepted for consideration:

Medical Education Research: 1 yr to 2 yr proposals (up to \$15,000/year): These are research studies using comparison and experimental groups in sufficient numbers to provide adequate power for statistical analysis. Where possible, it is desirable to have randomized assignment of students to groups and to sample students from multiple medical schools. This can include but not be limited to studies testing two types of didactic method such as in-person lecturing versus use of pod-casts; controlled evaluations of the efficacy of certain educational interventions, such as the inclusion of computer simulation versus clinical vignettes. Both quantitative and qualitative research projects are appropriate, as are meta-analyses of the medical education research literature.

Innovations in Medical Education: 1 yr proposals (up to \$15,000): These are evaluation studies without comparison groups. However, outcome data are required in order to describe the effects of the innovation. Included in this category of descriptive observational, interview, and survey studies to determine the current status of or impact of educational interventions (innovative or pre-existing) designed to improve student skill, knowledge or attitude, e.g. the observation of student behavior on a clerkship rotation, a test of student knowledge in a particular area, an anonymous survey of alcohol use among medical students, or an interview study asking students to describe exemplary examples of professionalism by faculty and residents.

Primary Investigators are asked to specify which type of grant they are applying for: **Medical Education Research** or **Innovations in Medical Education**. Abstracts of previously successful applications are available at:

<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/ade/grants/grantsprogram.cfm>

Research topics: Some areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

clinical skills development	medical errors	teamwork in patient care delivery
educational outcomes	medical legal issues	ethnic and cultural disparities
medical students and duty hours	medical student selection	assessment
professionalism education	impact of curriculum changes	patient simulation
instructional technology	web-based instruction	curriculum integration
game technology in med education	communication	health care economics

These areas of interest should not discourage faculty from developing proposals in other areas. Applicants are encouraged to attend the faculty development program on medical education research grants on Feb 17th 4:00-6:00 PM or to consult with GRIME (Group on Research in Medical Education; e-mail: jshort@virginia.edu).

Proposal Format: A standard format has been developed for both proposal types (see next page)

Proposal Budget should be placed in a sealed envelope with the name of the PI and the title of the proposal on the outside.

Review Process: All proposals (both Innovations and Research) will be reviewed by the same committee composed of ADE members. The proposals will be reviewed without knowledge of the budget and, only after the proposals have been ranked, will the budgets be examined. The review committee reserves the right to award less than the requested amount of money. A variety of criteria will be used in making funding decisions (ranking; balance between research and innovation proposals; balance between clinical and basic science projects).

Award Notification: The Dean's Office will notify primary investigators whose proposals have been chosen for funding. All primary investigators will receive within 60 days of the committee's decision a written evaluation of their proposal based on a summary of discussion by the committee and the evaluations of the primary and secondary reviewers.

Submission: Submit proposals electronically as Word or PDF attachments to Dr. R. Lawrence Merkel at rlm3u@virginia.edu. If you have additional questions, contact Dr. Merkel or Dr. Bloodgood (mp5k@virginia.edu). Please send budgets in a sealed envelope to Dr. Merkel (Dept. of Psychiatry and NBS, HSC Box 800623).

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Proposal Format: Please include these headings and sections in your proposal:

1. Title of Project
2. Abstract
3. Background
4. Goals of the project
5. Research plan (or Innovation/Assessment plan) with defined measurable outcomes
6. Plans for publication and dissemination of results
7. Investigator biosketches (maximum of 2 pages each)
8. Letter of support from department chair or division head
9. Budget (may include investigator effort, support personnel, consulting services, supplies, incentives for medical student participation)
Note: Budget must be submitted separately in a sealed envelope labeled with PI name and "Budget."

Proposal Length: 5 page maximum (not including biosketches, letter of recommendation, budget)

Deadline: Monday, May 4, 2009 by 5:00 PM

Submission: Submit proposals electronically as Word or PDF attachments to Dr. R. Lawrence Merkel at rlm3u@virginia.edu. Send budgets in a sealed envelope to Dr. Merkel (Dept. of Psychiatry and NBS, HSC Box 800623). If you have additional questions, contact Dr. Merkel or Dr. Bloodgood (rab4m@virginia.edu).

Notification: Notification of awards will be made during June 2009.