



Grants for Education of Medical Students (GEMS) Program

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) and SIR Foundation believe in promoting a culture of inclusion and how different perspectives will strengthen the specialty of interventional radiology (IR). This funding program is intended to attract third- and fourth-year medical students from diverse backgrounds to the medical profession of IR by providing scholarships to fund visiting clerkships/rotations in interventional radiology and provide a well-rounded introduction to IR. Students who are seeking to be the first generation of physicians in their families and identify as being from racial or ethnic groups that are underrepresented in the medical field, female, or LGBTQ are eligible to apply for these scholarships, as are students who come from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The GEMS Program includes a virtual curriculum hosted by SIR Foundation beginning in September. This virtual program provides medical students with the opportunity to:

- Have an extensive learning experience about the role of IR in disease management with an emphasis on health equity and diversity
- Develop early mentoring relationships with GEMS mentors, committee members, and guest speakers
- Broaden their professional network with their cohort and mentors

In addition, this program will provide a travel grant to ease the financial burden for third- and fourth-year medical students who desire to participate in a visiting clerkship/rotation in IR at a program outside of their home institution. The visiting clerkships/rotations will provide the medical student an opportunity to:

- Experience an in-depth and more personal learning experience about the specialty of IR;
- Become exposed to and comfortable in a new environment as a prelude to their residency application and interviewing process;
- Potentially develop an early mentoring relationship in IR; and
- Broaden their professional networks.

NATURE OF CLERKSHIPS

The clerkships to which the students are applying must devote at least 50 percent and up to 100 percent time to IR, with any remaining time devoted to diagnostic radiology (DR), nuclear medicine or a subspecialty area within DR. The clerkship must be at least four weeks in duration.

Recipients of the program are also expected to complete an in-person clerkship. However, due to COVID-19 we are making the in-person clerkships optional until further notice. If the recipient does choose to participate in the in-person clerkship, they will need to fill out and submit a “clerkship report forms,” which are found on the SIR Foundation website. This form is due after completion of the first three weeks of the clerkship, but before completion of the fourth week of the



clerkship. SIR Foundation will review and approve the clerkship report forms.

AWARD INFORMATION

Recipients will receive a \$1,500 grant, payable upon completion of the virtual curriculum which takes place in the Fall.

After the completion of your virtual and in-person clerkship, recipients will automatically be awarded a travel stipend to attend the next [SIR Annual Scientific Meeting](#). The SIR Annual Scientific Meeting is an experience that includes dedicated educational programming, presentations from leaders in the field of interventional radiology, and networking opportunities with IRs from across the world.

There is a competitive application process for this award, resulting in up to a maximum of 15 medical students per year to participate in this program.

ELIGIBILITY

Grants will only be provided to medical students who meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Students whose parents and grandparents are not physicians and;
 - a. whose racial or ethnic group is self-designated as those traditionally underrepresented in medicine based on the AAMC definition, including, African-American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or
 - b. who are female, or`
 - c. who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, or others (LGBTQ+).
2. Students who have overcome substantial personal and/or economic obstacles, which should be briefly described in the personal statement portion of the application.

Additionally, interested medical students should be:

- a. Citizens of the United States or Canada, those with permanent resident status*, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA or Dreamers)**; and
- b. Entering their third or fourth year of medical school (MD, DO, or equivalent); and
- c. Strongly considering a career in interventional radiology; and
- d. In good standing at and enrolled in an LCME-accredited medical school or its equivalent for a non-U.S. medical school; and
- e. On track to complete all required basic coursework and clerkships at and graduate from their home institution; and
- f. Entering a clerkship of at least four weeks in duration, that devotes at least 50 percent time to IR, with the remainder of time devoted to diagnostic radiology (DR), nuclear medicine, or a



- subspecialty area within DR; and
- g. First time recipients of the GEMS award. If you have previously received an award to participate in the GEMS program, you are not eligible to re-apply.
 - h. The medical student must be a member in good standing of the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)

*Permanent status residents must submit documentation of their status. If an applicant is at an institution in the United States or Canada and is on a visa, a letter from the medical school should also be included with the application. The letter should include a statement noting that the medical student will be expected to complete the entirety of the IR elective.

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA or Dreamers) are eligible. When applying you will need to provide and upload proper documentation of your DACA status into your application. If you have any questions, please contact SIR Foundation.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

There is one cycle for this program:

For clerkships beginning in May 2024, the application is due no later than 5:00 PM ET on May 31**

**The deadline remains on that date, whether or not the date falls on a weekend and/or holiday. Applications that are incomplete or that do not comply with the guidelines, will be withdrawn from the review process.

Applicants are to submit their completed application via the online form specific to the grant/award program of interest, found on the SIR Foundation website. You can find the form by following the links from the home page to the appropriate grant/award program. The direct link for this grant/award program can be found here: apply.sirfoundation.org

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- Applicant must:
 - Complete a [Visiting Student Learning Opportunities \(VSAS\) application](#)
 - Submit a copy of their medical school transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable)
 - Provide a copy of their United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 and Step 2 (if available) scores
 - Submit an updated curriculum vitae (CV) and a photograph
 - Provide a personal statement (300 words or less) on how this program will help them achieve their goals. If the student is applying based upon eligibility criterion number 2 above, the personal statement should include a brief description of this dynamic.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Completed applications will be reviewed by the SIR Foundation GEMS Program Committee within



30 days of the application deadline. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions via email roughly by **the first two weeks of August**.

REPORTS REQUIRED

- Prior to receiving any funds from SIR, the grantee must:
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 - Commit to attend all the virtual lectures, which will allow them to:
 - Participate in all the Tuesday and Thursday virtual teachings and case/clinical conferences with the IR mentors;
 - Participate in the Thursday virtual Journal Club meetings every week;
 - Engage with the GEMS mentors and guest speakers;
 - Complete and present the GEMS Program final project
 - Commit to an experience that will allow them to complete the rotation and actively:
 - Participate in all teaching and case/clinical conferences with the IR residents;
 - Be engaged with IR inpatient and outpatient clinical service activities; and
 - Become involved with a small scholarly or teaching project or case study.
 - Electronically submit a Student Clerkship Report Form after the third week of their in-person clerkship, but before the completion of the fourth week of the clerkship. The student will be expected to answer three to four structured questions about how the program is meeting their expectations and provide the title of the research/educational project or the topic of their case study.
 - Have the IR physician overseeing the clerkship submit the Mentor Clerkship Report Form, attesting to the amount of time successfully completed by the student and the amount of time remaining.

Both clerkship report forms must be submitted electronically prior to the completion of the fourth week of the clerkship via the platform on which the forms are hosted.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Upon completion of the GEMS virtual program, SIR Foundation will send the medical student \$1,500 grant funds.

MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF SUPPORT

SIR Foundation reserves the right to modify or terminate the amount of any funds granted under the terms of the GEMS Program. Generally, such action would be based on the awardee's receipt of support from sources other than SIR Foundation which might (1) limit the ability of the recipient to successfully complete the terms of the award or (2) obviate the recipient's need for funding from SIR Foundation.

AWARD EXPENSES

This grant is intended to provide a travel stipend of \$1,500 to help cover the costs of airfare, ground



transportation and lodging so that financial constraints will not be a limitation for a medical student who desires to participate in a visiting clerkship/rotation in IR at a program outside of their home institution.

PUBLICITY OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

After funding decisions have been made, SIR Foundation will publicize the grants and recipients through various communications methods such as press releases, the webpage and other electronic sources. Such public information sharing will include the recipient's name, home and clerkship institution, and research/teaching project title and/or case study. Recipients will be listed as a GEMS recipient, not specifying the eligibility criterion under which the recipient was awarded.

For IR programs interested in participating: SIR Foundation will identify IR programs from around the country who are committed to assisting the above groups of medical students to gain exposure to the field of IR by providing a clerkship in IR and will provide this listing on the SIR Foundation website.

GEMS program funding: The GEMS program was created and launched thanks to a generous gift from Alan H. Matsumoto, MD, FSIR, and his family, and inaugural funding of the program from Boston Scientific Corporation, Penumbra, and Siemens. SIR Foundation is grateful for their support to endow and enable the GEMS program to endure for many years.

Please contact email grants@sirweb.org for additional questions or if you are an IR program interested in applying.