

## The Mentor Student Research Link Program Summary

### Introduction:

This is the first structured student centered research program in the Egyptian Universities that matches the international academic standards.

It is based **on volunteering** of all mentors and students as well as coordinators.

The program provides a full research link between a young medical student and a physician with a good research experience for a period of 4 to 6 months. A prior written **contract agreement** of all the responsibilities of the student and the mentor was signed by both of them. One of the special advantages that were granted to the student was to get the right of being a **first author** on the publication that will come out of this research link. The student has to do most of the work with some help from the mentor.

The main responsibilities of student:

1. To meet the supervisor **weekly**
2. Work on the research study and write the manuscript at the end.
3. Submit a **monthly progress report** by email to the program coordinator (also a student).
4. Attend a **2 hours weekly lecture** of basic and gradual research skills for 12 weeks plus 2 online lectures.
5. To complete an accredited online course by the National Institute of Health, USA and submit the certificate to the program coordinator before the end of the program.

All these details can be seen in the **different program files (the contract, the schedule of lectures, the progress report, the scores ..etc)**

### Progress summary in numbers

- Number of sites of first cycle is :One in Assiut University
- **Student coordinator** of the program: a 6 year medical student : Omnia Omar
- Adviser of the program: An assistant lecturer
- Number of research mentors volunteered: **15 mentors** (ranged between Assistant Lecturer, and Assistant Professors)
- Number of initial student applicants (online applications) : **40 students ranged between** (from 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical school to houseofficer year) , they went through an objective interview process
- Number of interview sessions: **3 sessions**, each session attended by 4-6 mentors.

- Number of students accepted after the interview was **17 plus 2 extra** spots given for 2 student coordinators as an incentive,( both will not be competing with other students). 2 mentors got 2 students each (Exceptional after confirming they will be able to provide enough time)
- Students completed the NIH course and got certificate : **8**
- **Evaluation of progress:** There was a credit points system that gives a **total score of 500** at the end of the program dividing the scores on different activities (lecture, monthly progress report with a deadline at the end of each month, submitting the manuscript before deadlines, meeting with the supervisor every week ..etc)
- **4** of the 19<sup>th</sup> received **termination letters** of their program early due to :
  1. One changed mentor without notification of program
  2. Two did not submit their signed contract agreement between them and the mentor before the deadline
  3. One was not able to meet with his mentor regularly as he got an elective in USA
- **All lectures** were done and the meeting with the mentors finished by the end of **April 2013**.
- 15 completed the program so far and participating of activities of the program.
- **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013** was the deadline for submitting the manuscript to an international journal if the study was a case report or review article. 5 students were able to submit a complete manuscript by the deadline to international journal. One student was able to get it also accepted in an international conference and was presented by the mentor since she could not travel. Those who did not submit in time, will lose 200 points and will not be eligible for the final competition on awards. **4 students submitted by deadline**
- **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013:** the deadline for submitting the manuscript of students who are doing questionnaire based studies and for the whole program. **3 more students**
- **July** will be the final research day and all students who completed the program will present their posters and oral presentations. Best poster will be selected by 2 researchers. Students will get official letter from HRE with all lectures and skills they learned, plus a certificate. Those with top scores will get extra awards. All mentors will be given official acknowledgement letters and certificates.
- **Plans for Next Cycle in nut shell:**

The program is planned to be developed into:

- Clinical Mentor-Student Research Link
- Basic Science Mentor- Student Research Link
- Student-Student Research Synapse in collaboration with Ain Shams AMSRA student group.
- More application sites including Ain Shams , Kasr Aini and Sohag Universities  
More Details in attached files