Dear Colleague:

The Visiting Clerkship Program (VCP), sponsored by the Minority Faculty Development Program (MFDP) of the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership, provides support for fourth-year and qualified third-year medical students from groups underrepresented in medicine (African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native) to participate in the HMS Exchange Clerkship Program.

Since VCP’s inception in 1990, more than 1,550 underrepresented in medicine students (URiM) from all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and Canada have participated in the program. The Program is designed to increase medical student awareness of opportunities in academic medicine, to increase their consideration of an academic training program for internship and residency, and especially, to increase the number of minority students applying to HMS-affiliated hospital training programs.

We have enclosed VCP brochures (with monthly application deadline dates for 2020-2021 academic year) and flyers. The brochure provides details on eligibility requirements and financial assistance for applicants. We encourage prospective students to download our Training Directory, which describes each of the HMS teaching hospitals and research facilities, as well as summaries of training programs in each area of specialty.

Please help us reach out to interested students by posting or distributing the program materials. If you have any questions or would like electronic copies of both the flyer and brochure, please feel free to contact us at 617-432-4422 or email the VCP office at vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu.

Sincerely,

Visiting Clerkship Program

Attachments:

1. VCP Brochure
2. Residency Showcase flyer
**OVERVIEW**

The Visiting Clerkship Program (VCP) provides support for fourth-year and qualified third-year medical students from groups underrepresented in medicine as defined by the AAMC, including, but not limited to African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native, to participate in the Harvard Medical School Exchange Clerkship Program. It was designed to:

- Increase awareness of opportunities in academic medicine
- Increase consideration of academic training programs for internship and residency
- Increase the number of minority students applying to HMS-affiliated hospital training programs

The Visiting Clerkship Program is sponsored by the Minority Faculty Development Program of the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership.

**PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS**

Participants in the Visiting Clerkship Program will be scheduled at one of the affiliated teaching hospitals of Harvard Medical School:

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Brockton/West Roxbury Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates
- Joslin Diabetes Center
- Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- McLean Hospital
- Mt. Auburn Hospital
- Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

**MORE INFORMATION**

For information about the Visiting Clerkship Program, please contact the Program Coordinator at 617-432-4422 or vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu or visit the website at www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/vcp

More information about the Harvard Medical School Exchange Clerk Program for Visiting Medical Students can be found at the HMS Registrar's website: www.hms.harvard.edu/registrar

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Eligibility**

Eligible participants are: full-time, fourth-year (US Citizens or Permanent Residents of US) medical students in good standing at accredited US and Canadian medical schools. Third-year students who have completed their core clerkships in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics are also eligible. In addition to completion of core requirements, all students applying to the VCP must have completed USMLE Step 1 prior to the start of their rotation.

Students remain registered at their own schools while participating in exchange clerkships at Harvard Medical School. They are not officially enrolled as students at Harvard University.

**Length**

Clerkships are offered year around, and each clerkship lasts for four weeks. Students may rotate throughout the year. HOWEVER, the VCP only provides housing and travel support from May through November.

**Mentoring and Networking**

VCP participants are assigned a faculty advisor and offered opportunities to network with HMS faculty, house staff and students. A dinner/luncheon meeting for faculty and students is held during each rotation.

**Course Offerings**

Visiting Clerkship Program participants can take elective courses at Harvard Medical School. Please view electives in the online catalog: www.medcatalog.harvard.edu

In addition, participants have access to the Harvard Medical School Countway Library, hospital seminars, and hospital workshops.

**Financial Assistance**

The program will:
- reimburse up to $400 toward the cost of traveling to and from Boston;
- pay the application processing fee required by HMS Registrar's Office.

**Housing**

The Visiting Clerkship Program provides housing for participating students.

**APPLICATION**

To receive a VCP application, please return the Application Request Form on the back of this brochure or call the Visiting Clerkship office at 617-432-4422; email: vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu. We will send you the forms that are required for VCP application.

In order to complete HMS exchange clerkship application you need to go online at the registrar's website at www.hms.harvard.edu/registrar and enter your clerkship preferences and your preferred month. You can then return the requested forms along with VCP application to the VCP office. We will forward all information to the registrar's office. The registrar's office will contact you with your assigned clerkship.

**Rotation Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2019 - 2020 Rotation Dates</th>
<th>Online Application Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>May 4 - May 31</td>
<td>January 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>June 1 - June 28</td>
<td>February 28</td>
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<td>July 2020</td>
<td>July 6 - August 2</td>
<td>March 31</td>
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<td>August 2020</td>
<td>August 3 - August 30</td>
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<td>September 2020</td>
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<td>October 2020</td>
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<td>November 2020</td>
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* Visiting Clerkships Program (VCP) supports students from May through November.

**DEADLINES**

You must submit the online clerkship application on the registrar's website at least 3 months prior to the desired rotation month. The HMS registrar's office strictly enforces application deadlines.

In order to be competitive for a clerkship, it is strongly recommended that you submit VCP application before the 3 month deadline or earlier. For application information, please call: 617-432-4422 or email: vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu.
The Minority Faculty Development Program (MFDP) in the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership (DICP) was created by the Harvard Medical School Faculty Council in 1990 to support the career development of junior faculty and to address the following crucial pipeline issues:

- Increasing the pool of minority students interested in careers in science and medicine
- Promoting medical students, graduate students, and fellows to develop the needed skills for success in the academic arena
- Advancing the career development of junior faculty

The Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership was established in 2002 to promote the increased recruitment, retention and advancement of diverse faculty, particularly individuals from groups underrepresented in medicine (URM), at HMS and to oversee all diversity activities involving Harvard Medical School (HMS) faculty, trainees, students and staff.

Our pipeline programs begin as early as the middle school level and carry on through the postgraduate level and involve curriculum development, teacher training, enhancing student research, and career development. DICP/MFDP’s work addresses HMS’ relationship with the community (internal and external) through the provision of programs that link HMS faculty, trainees and students with local, regional and national community-related activities.

Comments from VCP Participants

“I had an incredible clerkship experience during my pediatric GI rotation. I felt feeling inspired and motivated about a career in academic medicine and I am looking forward to applying to the Boston area.”

“Great opportunity to network, excellent advice on residency applications and the whole process. I honestly got more information on how to apply for residencies from here than my home school.”

“I had an absolute amazing time on my clerkship and as a result the program at MGH is very high on my list of places to train. Three major things. First, the connections & networking with faculty and other minority students, second, it allowed for me to visit a new hospital in a different state than where I am from, Third it helped to alleviate the financial burden to travel and housing cost. I would like to thank the VCP program and the MFDP and staff for all of its help and support.”

“I would highly recommend it because it provides you the ability to experience a premier medical education in some of the nation’s top hospitals with less financial burden but with more academic guidance. What’s not to like?”

“This is a very well-organized program. It provides an excellent opportunity to network within one’s field of interest. The program provides the student with the resources and connections to be a successful extern. In addition, the travel and housing financial aid is extremely beneficial for students who otherwise would not consider doing an away rotation because of the costs.”

“Provides exposure to fantastic residency programs. Offers you connections to meet with several faculty members that could have a strong say in the application process. Great way to get a strong letter. Will meet many great mentors.”

“The program does an excellent job of supporting students and putting students in the best possible position to succeed. My advisor was a great mentor and resource and I learned an incredible amount from some wonderful medical educators throughout my rotation. I was truly lucky to have participated in this program.”
SAVE THE DATE

Harvard Affiliated Residency Programs Showcase

For 3rd and 4th Year Medical Students from Groups Underrepresented in Medicine (UriM)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Walter Amphitheater & Atrium (2nd Floor)

Tosteson Medical Education Center (TMEC) at HMS

260 Longwood Avenue

Boston, MA 02115

Hosted by:

The Visiting Clerkship Program

Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership

www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/vcp

www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/medicalgraduate/residency_showcase