Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR)

Each year, this popular program provides up to 18 medical students from across the nation an opportunity to conduct 2 to 3 months of summer research guided by the mentorship of a UCSD faculty member. Additionally, students participate in a variety of activities that help shape their knowledge base related to aging and teach valuable skills needed to conduct research. Not only do these students benefit from the research experience itself, but also they are provided an opportunity to travel to the annual American Geriatrics Society meeting to present their work. Financial support (~$1900/month) will be provided to the trainees.

For more information about MSTAR please visit aging.ucsd.edu.


Why Study Aging?

Today’s medical students will be practicing during the peak of the baby boomer generation. As the proportion of the elderly in our society grows, there will be a great demand for physician-scientists with specialized training and skills in treating older adults and the drive to address issues related to the healthcare needs of the aging population.

Examples of Previous Research Projects

- Is Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Correlated to the Prevalence and Progression of Alzheimer’s Disease?
- HIV and Aging: Frailty as a Predictor for Neurocognitive Impairment and an Assessment of Cognitive Reserve as a Protective Factor
- Clinical Markers of Tumor Sensitivity to HGF/c-Met Pathway Inhibition in Malignant Gliomas with Heterogeneous Backgrounds
- Changes in Physical Activity Before and After Development of Pre-clinical Cognitive Impairment
- Biomarkers of NET Formation: Understanding Delayed Wound Healing in Geriatric Ankle Fracture Patients