California Medicine Scholars Program

Developing California’s future physician workforce

The California Medicine Scholars Program (CMSP) is a state-wide, structured pathway to produce underrepresented minority (URM) physicians to reduce health disparities in our California communities. CMSP achieves this by scaling and sustaining a community college-undergraduate-medical school pathway that supports a competitive, well-trained, diverse workforce.

The problem we address

A significant and growing gap exists in the number of URM physicians presently practicing and those needed to practice in the future in the diverse communities of California. According to 2015 report from the California Healthcare Foundation, only 5% and 3%, respectively, of our active California Physician workforce are Latino and African American.

In the state of California, 48% of African American, 56% of Latino/Mexican American and 59% of Native American undergraduate students begin their academic careers in the community college system.

The majority of these students fail to complete community college and successfully transfer. Six years after enrolling, 70% of degree seeking students had not completed a certificate or degree and not transferred to University.

Multiple studies have found that African American and Latino physicians are more likely to practice in medically underserved communities and to care for greater numbers of racial and ethnic minority patients.

Adopting strategies that overcome URM community college students’ transfer challenges and support their training and retention will be an essential component of increasing a medical pipeline.
CMSP develops, implements, and monitors the effectiveness of its programs and activities to help underrepresented, disadvantaged minority students move from community college through university and finally medical school education to practice in our diverse communities across the State of California.

The California Medicine Scholars Program (CMSP) is a state-wide, longitudinal, structured endeavor. California Medicine will establish formal linkages between selected California Community Colleges, four-year undergraduate institutions and California’s premiere medical schools.

The community college to medical school pathway proposes to identify and/or develop prescriptive, credit-bearing courses for students’ successful transfer, provide early exposure to the medical school experience and provide students with the following potential resources: individual medical school advisement and mentoring, financial aid counseling, MCAT preparation and waived application fees for admission to the participating medical schools.

CMSP will target students from underrepresented disadvantaged minorities groups in community colleges with an intent to address disparities in health outcomes and inequities in health facing California’s diverse communities.

The California Medicine Scholars Program (CMSP) Pathway

The first year of implementation will consist of a selected group of medical schools, four year undergraduate institutions and community colleges with the structures and resources in place to facilitate these linkages and demonstrate their readiness to immediately support students in the proposed pathway.

California Medicine will provide assistance to participating institutions to track and monitor their success in providing the proposed supports to students, and develop virtual platforms to help institutions outreach and guide students along the pathway.

A forthcoming RFP will be issued for the application and selection of the California Community Colleges to join the first year of implementation of this initiative. Please visit (website) for updates.

WHO WE ARE
A diverse state-wide coalition representing private and public academic, industry, California Community Colleges
Chancellor’s Office
California LAW
California Primary Care Association
Charles Drew University Kaiser Permanente East Bay,
Marcus Foster Education Institute
Meharry Medical College
Peralta Community College District
Stanford University
University of California Office of the President, UC Health
UC Davis
UC San Diego
UC San Francisco

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