



## 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 medical students from diverse backgrounds to the medical profession of IR by providing scholarships to fund visiting clerkships/rotations in interventional radiology. 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 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:

- Have 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.

### AWARD INFORMATION

The award is \$1,500 per student, payable upon review and approval of the “clerkship report forms,” which are found on the SIR Foundation website and are 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, and will then provide payment to the student.

There is a competitive application process for this award, resulting in up to a maximum of 10 medical students per year (maximum of four in any one cycle) 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, Queer, 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 or with permanent resident status\*; 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.

\*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.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

There are three cycles for this program:

**Cycle 1:** For clerkships beginning in April through July, the application is due no later than 11:59 PM ET on Dec. 1\*\*

**Cycle 2:** For clerkships beginning in August through November, the application is due no later than 11:59 PM ET on April 1\*\*

**Cycle 3:** For clerkships beginning December through March, the application is due no later than 11:59 PM ET on Aug. 1\*\*

\*\*The deadline remains on that date, whether or not the date falls on a weekend and/or holiday. Applications that are incomplete or 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: [sir.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/home/9](http://sir.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/home/9).

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**



- Applicant must:
  - Submit their completed application via the online form found at: [sir.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/home/9](https://sir.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/home/9)
  - 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 by **Jan. 10** for Cycle 1 applications, **May 1** for Cycle 2 applications, and **Sept. 1** for Cycle 3 applications.

### REPORTS REQUIRED

- Prior to receiving any funds from SIR, the grantee must:
  - 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 "clerkship report form—student" after the third week of the 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. The student clerkship report form can be found here ([tfaforms.com/4728589](https://tfaforms.com/4728589)).
  - Have the IR physician overseeing the clerkship submit the "clerkship report form—mentor" report, attesting to the amount of time successfully completed by the student and the amount of time remaining. The mentor clerkship report form can be found here ([tfaforms.com/4728577](https://tfaforms.com/4728577)).

The clerkship report forms must both 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 receipt, review and approval of the above clerkship report forms, SIR Foundation will send the medical student the \$1,500 grant funds within four weeks of receipt of the form. Under no circumstances will funding be released prior to approval of the completed clerkship report forms.

### 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@sirfoundation.org](mailto:grants@sirfoundation.org) for additional questions or if you are an IR program interested in applying.