



DONALD AND BARBARA
ZUCKER SCHOOL of MEDICINE
AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL

Graduation with Distinction in Research

The purpose of the honorific award of Graduation with Distinction in Research is to recognize Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell (SOM) students who have made significant progress toward a career as a physician scientist through completion of substantive research with potential clinical, translational or basic science impact. While there is no minimum time requirement for the research study, it is generally agreed that such a study will most likely require substantial time beyond that spent during a summer of research after the first year and thus require ongoing research involvement throughout subsequent years of medical school. Students are strongly encouraged to consult a member of the Student Research Advisory Committee early in the process of deciding to work toward this award, to assure that the study would be appropriate.

The requirements for submitting a completed study for consideration for the award are as follows:

- The study must be based on research done by the student after matriculation at the SOM.
- The study should address a significant clinical, basic science or translational problem.
- The study must test a stated hypothesis, and cannot be a literature review, general chart review or case/series report. However, use of previously acquired data or chart information to test a clearly defined new hypothesis is acceptable.
- The individual student must have made a substantial contribution to *all* of the following: the formulation of the hypothesis, the design of the study, completion of the study (data acquisition and analysis), and preparation of a manuscript that has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, with the student as an author or co-author as per the SOM authorship criteria.

If the written application and paper are selected by the Committee for further consideration, the student must then present their work in a 12-15 minute talk in an open forum. The presentation must include an Introduction, Hypothesis, Results (including a brief description of methods of approach where appropriate), Conclusions (which must include the impact and significance of the research), and Future Studies that the student thinks would be needed to continue to advance the topic.

Students must also provide a clear statement of their role and level of involvement in each aspect of the study as per the requirements above.

Following the presentation, students will answer questions from the Committee. The Committee will then make its determination of award, based on the following criteria:

1. Candidate's background knowledge of the topic that was studied.
2. Candidate's level of understanding of all aspects of the conduct of the research study, including
 - a. Methodology used and why specific approaches were selected (including statistics).
 - b. Limitations of the study design and/or results.
 - c. Remaining gaps in knowledge.
3. Organization and clarity of the presentation.