

MEDICAL CAREER DESIGN FELLOWSHIP

A two-year educational program for recent college graduates interested in exploring medical careers

The Division of Orthopedics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) funds a select number of Medical Career Design (MCD) Fellowships to allow recent college graduates the opportunity to explore many aspects of a medical career — research, clinical practice, education, advocacy and leadership.

Each MCD fellow spends two years as an essential member of our research and clinical teams, mentored by our thought-leading faculty from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. CHOP's Division of Orthopedics was ranked in the top 5 in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* for 2026-27.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

The central aspect of the MCD fellow's work will be coordinating and facilitating clinical research, including:

- Subject recruitment
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) submissions and renewals
- Data analysis/manuscript preparation
- Monitoring/maintaining data for study group databases and multicenter registries

The program will also include training in research ethics, research subject protections, clinical science study design, methodology, data analytics and statistical methodology.

Successful MCD fellows will have opportunities to co-author medical journal submissions and are encouraged to present results at regional and national meetings. Through this immersive experience, the MCD fellow will learn how to initiate, design, complete and communicate clinical research.

Each week, MCD fellows will work in our clinics as a scribe, helping our attending physicians with patient visits by populating medical records. The scribe role offers the MCD fellow a unique front-line physician shadowing role in performing a history and physical exam, interpreting image and lab data, and formulating clinical decisions.

This daily exposure — over time — allows the MCD fellow to develop a significant font of medical knowledge, grow confident in the patient care setting, and gain insights into managing the challenges of a busy and complex clinical practice.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MCD fellows will be immersed in our educational programs. They are encouraged to attend:

- Daily lectures
- Weekly case-review conferences
- Research conferences
- A quarterly journal club

Each year, we also host Visiting Professor events that fellows are invited to attend. The daily interactions with faculty, medical students, residents and clinical fellows offer many educational and career exploration opportunities.

One of the key aspects of the MCD fellowship is mentorship by nationally recognized academic physicians. The weekly interactions between MCD fellows and faculty — in clinic work rooms, at research meetings, in conferences and at social events — offers many opportunities for faculty to coach and mentor MCD fellows.

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Our faculty will be able to confidently write letters of recommendation that are rich in detail about the MCD fellows' research accomplishments and extensive clinical exposure, and advocate for the fellows as they navigate the rigorous medical school application process.

Upon arrival, each MCD fellow will be assigned a faculty mentor, with whom they will meet periodically to discuss the design of their medical career.

For complete details about the MCD Fellowship, past participants' clinical research and details about placements after fellowship, download our MCD Fellowship booklet.

FELLOWSHIP CORE FACULTY AND SUPPORT



Wudbhav (Woody) N. Sankar, MD
Chief, Division of Orthopedics,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

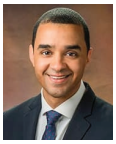
John M. Flynn Professor of Orthopedic Surgery,
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania



Apurva Shah, MD, MBA
Co-Director of the MCD Fellowship
Director, Clinical Research

Attending Surgeon,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Associate Professor, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania



Brendan A. Williams, MD
Co-Director of the MCD Fellowship
Attending Surgeon,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Assistant Professor, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania



Divya Talwar, PhD, MPH, BDS
Research Program Manager II, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Research Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Pennsylvania

ELIGIBILITY

MCD fellow applicants will be completing a BA/BS degree, pre-medical and commit for two gap years between college and med school. The student must be in good academic standing and have an interest in pursuing a career in Orthopedic Surgery. The successful applicant will be responsible, motivated, intellectually curious and independent. An MCAT score, biostatistics training and research experience are strongly valued, but not mandatory.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Each fellow will be provided an annual stipend of $48,500 in year one and $54,000 in year two, and will be provided with up to $7,500 of travel support annually to attend and participate in scientific presentations at regional and national meetings. A minimum two-year commitment is required. Fellows will also receive 15 vacation days per year in addition to CHOP-designated national holidays.

START AND END DATES

Each fellow's official start date will be determined by the Division of Orthopedics at the time of receiving an offer. The start date will be no later than June 14, 2027, with the exception of students enrolled in late spring or summer coursework. The official start date may be within two weeks of college graduation to facilitate the transition between incoming and outgoing MCD fellows.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please submit the following:

- Cover letter
- Undergraduate transcript
- Curriculum vitae
- MCAT score (if applicable)
- Your earliest available start date

Applications should be emailed to: Research Manager Divya Talwar, PhD, at **talward@chop.edu**.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis through **March 1, 2027.** Interviews will be required as part of the selection process.

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