

Free-Text Commentary on Suggestions for Prospective Students Regarding the Importance of Scholarly Work

I think it is extremely specialty dependent. Pediatrics is known as a field that does not value research experience as much as some other fields. However, I do think that doing research allowed me to make connections at other programs that I was interested in going to for residency and was primarily helpful as a networking tool. It was disappointing that this work did not then also count for the MCW Scholarly Project requirement, as I was participating in scholarly activity, just at a program that would benefit my residency application status.

"Don't wait to get started! It gets more difficult to participate in scholarly projects during clerkship years.

Seek opportunities for scholarly projects during clerkships. I tried to write a case report on as many clerkships as possible when I encountered unique patients/presentations. This is great for learning, resume building, professional development, and networking."

I think it is important for medical students to work on projects that they know can get published within a relatively short time frame. For example, I was able to publish three systematic reviews in my time in medical school. This would probably not be possible with basic science projects. I think case reports are not looked at by residence programs as all that impressive. I also think it's important to do lots of poster sessions as some people will just look at the sheer number of scholarly activities you have.

I think it is important to find a project you can care about and do that one project well.

Do more quality research that will get published.

"Seek input from advisors in that specialty because importance of scholarly work varies between specialties.

Multidisciplinary projects can be helpful if you are undecided early on, since they can then relate to multiple specialties. "

Scholarly work/research is very important now that step 1 is p/f to be a competitive applicant. I would suggest that they start as early as possible during their M1 year to find research mentors and join a number of projects/labs they would be interested in. I also found that at times, residency programs appreciated projects that were done outside of that particular specialty which shows they love seeing students who are well-rounded and have other interests outside of that field!

A longitudinal project that can discuss at length or even case series over singular reports. I wasn't asked specifically about certain projects or research, I was asked what I was most proud of or what I found impactful, which happened to be one of my research projects that actually didn't get published yet but was most meaningful to me.

I would say it can only help you, it won't hurt to have on your app, but the degree to which it plays a big role in getting you an interview/matching into a desired program is less clear. Most of my interviews were more casual and focused on other questions besides scholarly work.

Start research early (M1 year) as it becomes more difficult to dedicate time to research during the clinical years, and the process of starting a project and publishing can take years. Find a mentor who is motivated to publish.

It doesn't help if you are not excited or passionate about them once you are at the interview. However, I suspect the number of scholarly works helps to get the interview in the first place.

Doing projects that you are genuinely interested in

I believe producing research has become much more important since step 1 went P/F. It will only get more important if step 2 CK goes P/F and/or clinical grades etc go P/F.

Helpful, especially for very competitive programs, but Peds seems to be equally interested in community work

Start early and try to work on projects you're passionate about.

Engage with what you are passionate about

I think it is important if you are going for a more competitive residency (i.e. general surgery, ophthalmology, OBGYN, etc), but for less competitive positions like IM, it did not seem extremely important. I do think it is important to have something going on research/scholarly wise such as a manuscript in review to no matter what you are applying to, however.

Do it if you are passionate about it but don't feel like you absolutely have to do tons of research just because everyone else is doing it! Quality > quantity

When picking a group/ project to work on, make sure there is adequate staff support for you to ensure project completion. Have a good understanding about your role, hours needed to complete it, and possible roadblocks. The more work that has already been done, the better! Be realistic about your time availability. Try to have a couple projects going in case something

falls through. For example, a basic science project, qualitative research, and a community-based project.

It's specialty dependent, ask applicants from the class ahead of you.

Only do it if it's important to you personally. All of my research was personally impactful, so the hours spent on posters and manuscript drafts mattered. I wouldn't have done it just for a line on a CV

Quality over quantity!!!! Show commitment and dedication, too many case reports have hurt students (heard from others along the interview trail)

I would say it is important, and it is important to come up with some product whether it's technically published or not.

Engage in multiple projects. I invested hundreds of hours into a project [that I] did not want to publish in the end due to a negative result. Write case reports. I only had presentations in the end, and I think it hurt me not having any published work. I know peers in my specialty with publications who received more interviews.

Seek projects you are genuinely interested in, and do a few of them really well and produce quality results. Quality over quantity goes a long way, especially when asked about research on the interview trail. It is more impressive when you can talk passionately and in depth about a few projects you had a significant role in.

I had a first author publication in QI that I chose to highlight not only in my Dean's letter, but also in my top three activities. I don't think the scholarly work was make or break it, but it did become a topic of conversation since I CHOSE highlight it, I like QI research, and all IM residents have to complete a QI project. It definitely didn't not help—plus my interviewers enjoyed hearing about my struggles with research (not getting into my first journal and getting conditionally accepted with tons of comments requiring me to redo a lot of the analysis and how it overall made the paper stronger)

Meet with career services to review the Texas Star data very early in medical school, especially if you're applying to a competitive specialty (in term of percent applicants that match). Review the median number of publications and presentations that matched applicants had and shoot for higher than that. Finding projects where you can be a middle author to up your numbers is immensely helpful. However, you should have 2-3 projects where you led the study and can speak in detail about the research question and your results.

Be sure to engage in meaningful scholarly work that ties directly towards your professional interests. A few meaningful and well-constructed projects are far more valuable from a

learning perspective than having a minimal role on numerous projects. The meaningful projects will also be the ones that you will be asked about the most in interviews and the ones you will feel most comfortable elaborating upon. A word to the wise, too much curiosity is just as bad as not enough curiosity.

Quality over quantity

Do what is of interest to you, not necessarily work to “check boxes”

Definitely present at lots of conferences and participate in multiple projects!

Start early and focus on topics that you are interested in. If you can talk about your work and what exactly your role was, that will be helpful in showcasing your skills.

Start early, work on projects you're passionate about, and think about the outcome. You don't necessarily have to publish, but you need to have something to talk about/show for the work that you've done.