Getting started in medical education research

A guide for medical students

"Research" is broadly defined medical education

- Hypothesis-driven research projects

- Curriculum development projects

- Student services projects

- Educational quality improvement projects

Examples

- **Curriculum/medical education projects**
  - *Online modules to teach medical ethics*
  - *Simulated patients to teach adolescent interviewing skills*
  - *A one-page "cheat sheet" for describing skin findings*
  - *Creating instructional videos on oral case presentations*

- **Medical education-related research projects**
  - *What do students feel are the most difficult parts of adapting to PBL?*
  - *How do students cope with stress and anxiety in medical school?*
  - *How do iPads help students learn in the anatomy lab?*
  - *How does student use of textbooks for studying change throughout medical school?*
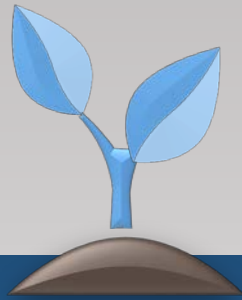
Characteristics of good medical student scholarly projects

- Benefits students
- Addresses a need (or preference) of students
- Addresses a need identified by the faculty/school
- Is of reasonable scope (e.g., "not too big")
- Requires minimal additional resources
- Is sustainable beyond the person creating the project
- Provides an opportunity to share what you learn with others (presentations, posters, publications)
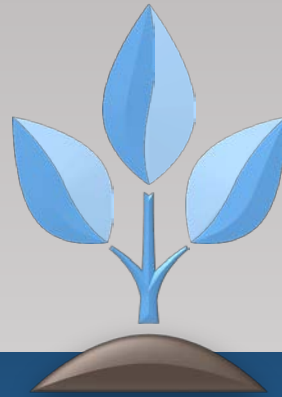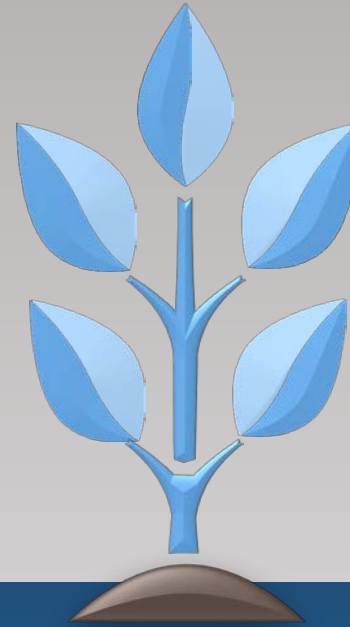
Project development steps
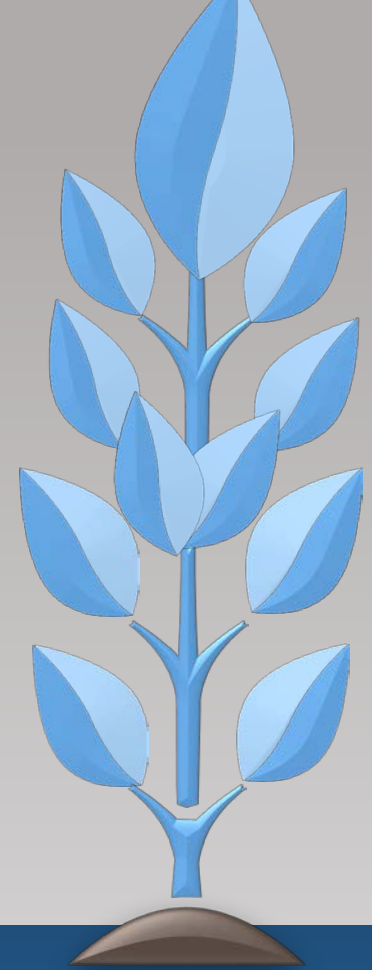
Step 1
Needs assessment and literature review

Step 2
Consider opportunities for scholarship

Step 3
Defining your goals and objectives

Step 4
Creating your instructional intervention or survey tool

Step 5
Evaluating the results and/or impact of your project

Interested?

- Contact an appropriate faculty supervisor for your project ideas.

- Feel free to contact Dr. Richard Kasuya as a first step, or to explore this area of scholarship more.