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)
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.