



PATHWAYS TO DISCOVERY

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Dear Advisors,

I am writing to make you aware of an innovative, new program at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine: the combined 5-year MD/Masters in Advanced Studies (MAS) in Clinical Research. We would greatly appreciate if you would make your medical school applicants aware of this unique program.

Brief points about the program:

- The MAS degree is intended for students who wish to master clinical research methods and ultimately pursue independent research careers in clinical and translational research; course work in the MAS includes instruction in advanced epidemiologic and biostatistical methods and specialized topics such as outcomes research, medical informatics, molecular methods in clinical research, clinical trials and decision and cost-effectiveness analyses.
- Currently, select UCSF medical students can earn both an MD and an MAS degree sequentially over a 6-year period of time; the new combined program, however, allows students to earn both degrees concurrently within a 5-year period, thereby decreasing time in training.
- Scholarship funds are available to defray both educational and living expenses.
- Application to the Program must occur by January of the second year of medical school to accommodate the curriculum.

Formal Master's level training in clinical research is rapidly becoming a national standard for physicians who seek to become independent principal investigators. We believe that this program will meet the increasing need for scholars and leaders in health care for the 21st century, and we are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity to our students. Through the Pathways to Discovery Program, UCSF is committed to recruiting top-notch students interested in careers in clinical and translational research; I would be grateful for your assistance in making prospective students aware of this opportunity.

Full details of the program can be found at:

http://www.medschool.ucsf.edu/pathways/clinical_translational/md_mas.aspx

I am available to answer any questions you and/or your prospective students have about this program. Please feel free to contact me at sawayag@obgyn.ucsf.edu for further information.

Sincerely,

George F. Sawaya, MD
Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
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Jeffrey N. Martin, MD, MPH
Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Director, Training in Clinical Research Program