Baylor College of Medicine’s Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) began in 1977. It is one of only 43 institutions nationally receiving a competitive training grant from the National Institutes of Health to train physician scientists. The combined M.D./Ph.D. degree program is designed for highly motivated students who want to pursue careers in academic medicine and biomedical research. This training can lead to significant scientific contributions in academic and corporate research, clinical practice or a combination of both.

Coursework in medical and graduate school is carefully planned to reduce the total amount of time needed to complete the program while providing a fully integrated curriculum to foster the training of a physician scientist and the future leaders of academic medicine.

The first two years are spent in medical school, completing 18 months of basic science coursework and 6 months of clinical rotations. During this time, students also complete readings with graduate faculty of their choice and take graduate school courses.

BCM MSTP graduates consistently match in competitive residencies at top institutions such as Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Washington University and Columbia.

BCM has a strong global initiative forming global programs with prestigious leaders including the National School of Tropical Medicine.

Opportunities to perform cutting-edge research in state-of-the-art facilities to complete Ph.D. in 1 of 13 graduate programs. Graduate program selection is made during the 2nd year of medical school.

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Bioengineering (Rice University)
- Developmental Biology
- Immunology
- Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Molecular and Human Genetics
- Molecular Physiology and Biophysics
- Molecular Virology and Microbiology
- Neuroscience
- Pharmacology
- Structural and Computational Biology and Molecular Biophysics
- Translational Biology & Molecular Medicine

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PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
Baylor College of Medicine Medical Scientist Training Program matriculates 8 to 12 students with fully funded positions each year. Successful applicants have an excellent scholastic record with an average GPA of 3.8, average MCAT scores of 11.6 and 1-2 years of significant research experience. Some applicants have had numerous publications in scientific journals while others have not yet published. International students may apply and are eligible for funding if they have completed their undergraduate education at an accredited college or university in the United States.

APPLYING
Candidates apply by utilizing the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) and selecting the combined M.D./Ph.D. option. A supplemental application must also be completed by November 1 and is available on the Baylor College of Medicine Admissions web page. The MSTP supplemental application provides candidates with the opportunity to indicate a graduate department of interest and their primary research interest. Admission to the MSTP does not require a separate application to the Graduate School, nor is application to a specific graduate department necessary. There are additional prerequisites for students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Bioengineering at Rice University.

MSTP applicants are strongly advised to take the MCAT in the Spring and submit medical school applications early in the admissions process, preferably during the summer months. November 1 is the deadline for applications, supplemental information and letters of recommendation. MSTP interviews may not be conducted without all supporting documentation. The GRE is not required.

INTERVIEWS AND ADMISSIONS
The MSTP interviews approximately 75 candidates each year. Interviews are scheduled from October to January. During the interview sessions candidates have the opportunity to speak to directors, faculty and students in the MSTP on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, prior to medical school interviews on Friday afternoon. Each candidate speaks with two members of the Faculty Operating Committee and one member of the Student Operating Committee as well as a member of the MSTP Admissions Committee. These interviews provide an interactive setting to discuss research experiences and explore various training opportunities that are available.

Accepted applicants are invited to return at BCM’s expense for an optional Second Look Weekend. During this three day event, candidates will be able to learn more about BCM and Houston. They will meet with faculty they have selected and interact with our students and faculty during social events. They will participate in a portion of the annual MSTP Scientific Symposium to hear student presentations about their thesis research and faculty speak about their careers.

Admission is highly competitive, and acceptance is based on interviews, demonstrable research interest and ability, MCAT scores and GPA. Acceptances to the MSTP, which include medical and graduate school tuition, an annual stipend, and health insurance, are made in December and February. Candidates who are accepted to the medical school but not the combined degree program may reapply during their first year of medical school.

OUTCOMES
BCM MSTP students complete the combined program in an average of 8.2 years. Students publish their graduate thesis in high impact journals. Following completion, most graduates pursue residency training in areas as medicine, neurology, pathology and more recently in surgical sub-specialties, radiation oncology and dermatology. Students match at top-rated institutions across the United States. The career flexibility offered with a combined degree allows graduates to have a career that best suits their preferences for a clinical, research, academic or industry focus. The program has graduated more than 242 physician scientists to date.
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Founded in 1900, Baylor College of Medicine takes pride in its reputation as a preeminent and internationally respected leader in academic medicine, biomedical research and clinical care. BCM is the only private medical school in the Greater Southwest, and is located in the heart of the world’s largest medical complex, the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in Houston, Texas. Baylor College of Medicine is a co-owner of the Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center along with Catholic Health Initiatives and has affiliations with seven additional teaching hospitals: Texas Children’s Hospital, Ben Taub Hospital, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Hospital, Children’s Hospital of San Antonio, TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research) Memorial Hermann, The Menninger Clinic, and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. The college has total research support of $363 million, with $280 million from federal sources, and more than 90 research and patient-care centers and units.

BCM Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is ranked in the top 10% of US graduate schools. With more than 800,000 square feet of laboratory research space, more than a dozen graduate programs from which to choose, and faculty who are members of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to teach and mentor graduate students, opportunities for superior graduate training abound.

TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER
Houston’s Texas Medical Center (TMC) is considered to be the largest medical center in the world on 1345 acres that includes 45.8 million gross sq. ft of space that is dedicated to the highest standards of patient care, research, and education. Either not-for-profit or government, these institutions include 21 renowned hospitals with seven acute care, six pediatric care, and eight specialty care facilities; three public health organizations; two universities; three medical schools; six nursing programs; two pharmacy schools; a dental school; eight academic and research institutions; and 13 support organizations. TMC has 106,000 employees which includes physicians, scientists, researchers, and other advanced degree professionals in life sciences and 49,000 life sciences students. Over 7.2 million patients are seen annually on the TMC complex with $960 million dedicated to indigent care for people with limited resources.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

We invite you to visit our website at www.bcm.edu/mstp for the most current information about our program, our students, research opportunities, faculty and departments at Baylor College of Medicine. For more information, you may call the Baylor College of Medicine Medical Scientist Training Program at 713-798-5264.

Medical Scientist Training Program
Baylor College of Medicine
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Houston, TX 77030-3411

713-798-5264
713-798-6184 (fax)
mstp@bcm.edu
www.bcm.edu/mstp

The Medical School Office of Admissions can answer your requests for information or your questions about applications, corrections, letters of recommendation and other supporting documentation.

Office of Admissions
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Baylor College of Medicine fosters diversity among its students, trainees, faculty and staff as a prerequisite to accomplishing our institutional mission, and setting standards for excellence in training healthcare providers, promoting scientific innovation, and providing patient-centered care.

• Diversity, respect, and inclusiveness create an environment that is conducive to academic excellence, and strengthens our institution by increasing talent, encouraging creativity, and ensuring a broader perspective.
• Diversity helps position Baylor to reduce disparities in health and healthcare access and to better address the needs of the community we serve.
• Baylor is committed to recruiting and retaining outstanding students, trainees, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds by providing a welcoming, supportive learning environment for all members of the Baylor community.