

 	Policy No: 2008-01	Approval Date: December 2007 Revision Date: November 2018 May 2021
	Effective Date: September 2021	
Title: <p style="text-align: center;">MD/PhD Studentship Stipend</p>		
Background & Purposes: <p>The shortage of clinician-scientists and the expansion of the medical school provide strong rationales for expanding the MD/PhD Program. As part of research training and the building of a track record as a junior researcher, student applications (in their own name) to external grant foundations are already strongly encouraged, and MD/PhD students have an excellent record of success in such competitions. Taking these facts into account, this policy proposes a solution to the potential problem of consistently taking on additional students beyond our program stipends and a mechanism to support student success in the program.</p>		

1. Scope

1.1 This policy applies to all students in the MD/PhD Program.

2. Student Stipend Support Principles

2.1 Successful candidates admitted to the MD/PhD Program will be provided with an annual student stipend by a combination of program sources for a maximum of 6 years and 4 months for the 7-year combined program.

2.2 Beginning January of the first year of the combined program, the student will receive an annual stipend from the program (guaranteed at \$27000 stipend and \$1000 research allowance).

2.3 If the student obtains an external award, that award will replace the MD/PhD Program stipend. If funding from the external award is less than the annual \$27000 amount, the program will provide a top-up amount to reach the guaranteed amount.

2.4 Med III and IV years (last 2 years of the program). Stipend support by the program (at \$27000 stipend and \$1000 research allowance per year), contingent upon successful completion of the PhD thesis (per section 3.5, below).

3. Student Responsibilities

- 3.1 The student is required to apply for external awards in his/her second year and if unsuccessful, again in Years 3 and 4 of the combined program.
- 3.2 The student is required to provide an annual progress report to the Program Director.
- 3.3 The student and the supervisor(s) are required to meet with the Program Director at least once a year. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate student annual progress, review academic/research goals and stipend support in the coming year.
- 3.4 The student will be evaluated at least annually by the Research Supervisory Committee. Continuation in the combined program and stipend support is contingent upon satisfactory scholastic and research progress.
- 3.5 To be eligible for stipend support in Med III and IV (last 2 years of the program):
 - 3.5.1 The student is required to successfully defend his/her thesis and submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle before re-entry to clinical rotations.
 - 3.5.2 If the student is successful in defending his/her thesis before re-entry to clinical rotations, s/he is required to submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within the time allowed in the Chair's Report on the Final Doctoral Examination (typically one calendar month from the date of the oral defense, unless the six month allowance box is ticked and justified).
 - 3.5.3 In exceptional circumstances, if the student is unable to schedule a defense date before re-entry to clinical rotations, s/he is required to submit his/her thesis to the external examiner before re-entry to clinical rotations, then complete the oral defense and submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within 6 months.

4. Research Supervisor Responsibilities

- 4.1 In the unlikely event that the student is unsuccessful in obtaining external funding, the primary research supervisor is obligated to provide bridge funding in the minimum amount of \$27000 per annum for the student stipend for one year, usually Year 5 of the combined program.
- 4.2 Although the program is expected to be completed in seven years, in rare cases where the research extends beyond Year 5, necessitating one or more additional years in the MD/PhD Program, that research period would also be funded by the primary research supervisor/external award(s) [i.e. same terms as Year 5].

5. Reconsideration of Stipend Support Decisions

- 5.1 In very exceptional circumstance, if re-entry to clinical rotations occurs before thesis submission to the external examiner, the student will receive no stipend support from the combined program until both submission and defense have occurred. The stipend suspension period is from June in Med III until final thesis submission to cIRcle.
- 5.2 Per 3.5.2. If the student is unable to submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within the time allowed in the Chair's Report on the Final Doctoral Examination, s/he will receive no stipend support from the program between that deadline and the time of final thesis submission to cIRcle.
- 5.3 Per 3.5.3. If the student is unable to complete the oral defense and submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within 6 months from June in Med III, his/her stipend support from the combined program will be suspended as of January in Med III until final thesis submission to cIRcle.
- 5.4 If the student is on approved leave of absence during the funding support year of the combined program, stipend support will be temporarily suspended during the leave period.