



## **THE COMBINED MD/PHD PROGRAM AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO** **STRITCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

**Patient-centered care, research, and education.** These comprise the foundation upon which the Stritch School of Medicine (SSOM) is built. The MD/PhD Program at SSOM is designed to prepare individuals for an academic medical career in which they will excel in all three domains—conducting original research, providing excellent patient care and contributing to the education and training of future medical professionals and scientists. The MD/PhD Program places a special emphasis on attention to individual students, providing supportive mentors and role models, and career counseling that will help lead students to gratifying and productive careers in academic medicine.

Positioned at the nexus of scientific research and clinical education at SSOM, the MD/PhD program integrates creative approaches to multidisciplinary graduate and medical training while promoting a strong academic and social community. Graduates of the combined MD/PhD program are well-positioned to become leaders in their chosen academic medical and research specialties.

The MD/PhD dual degree program is designed to be completed within 7-8 years. MD/PhD students matriculate into the Stritch School of Medicine and complete two years of pre-clinical education, including a research rotation in the summer following the M1 year. After the pre-clinical years, students transition to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences where they complete required coursework and research culminating in their PhD degree (3-4 years). Students then transition back into the medical school for final two years of medical education, comprised of clinical clerkships. Throughout all stages of the program students receive a scholarship covering full tuition, health insurance and a stipend (currently \$30,000 per year).

### **STRITCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

After more than a century of training outstanding physicians and physician-scientists, the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago maintains its national leadership role in fostering patient centered medicine, including Jesuit values of compassion, service and respect for life.

Stritch School of Medicine is located on the heart of the medical center campus, offering students an integrated educational experience. SSOM's state-of-the-art facilities are designed to fit a new curriculum founded on principles of active learning and early clinical experience. The medical curriculum features strong basic science and clinical coursework conducted in formal classroom and small group sessions that focus on collaborative problem solving. SSOM students are among the best trained, with a majority of our graduates entering residency programs that are ranked in the top 50 institutions in the country.

### **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

The MD/PhD Program benefits from all the biomedical science departments of the graduate school located at Loyola University Health Sciences Division (LUHSD). The Graduate School at LUHSD is comprised of five PhD degree-granting programs including Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Integrative Cell Biology, Molecular Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Cell and Molecular Physiology, and Microbiology & Immunology. In addition, interdisciplinary campus-wide research is linked through six translational research institutes including Oncology, Cardiovascular, Neuroscience, Infectious Disease and Immunology, Bioethics, and Burn/Shock Trauma. Outstanding modern basic and clinical research facilities provide infrastructure support for the research enterprise at LUHSD.

The MD/PhD candidate undergoes a specialized and highly individualized training experience tailored to the student's interest. MD/PhD students may select from any funded laboratory to engage in their thesis research and choose a degree program that matches their career goals. Degree requirements depend on the chosen program. The ultimate goal is the student's achievement of both the MD and PhD degrees, completed in a span of time that is considerably shorter than required to obtain both degrees individually.

## **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM**

Loyola University Health System is a nationally recognized leader in providing health care and in conducting groundbreaking research to treat heart disease, cancer, organ transplantation and neurological disorders. Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC) is among the leading academic medical centers with consistent ranking among the nation's top 100 best hospitals. LUMC is a quaternary care center that includes a 559-bed hospital, the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, the Ronald McDonald® Children's Hospital of Loyola, Burn/Trauma Center, Center for Heart & Vascular Medicine, Loyola Outpatient Center, and the Loyola Center for Health and Fitness. LUMC is the only Level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center for Region 8 of the state of Illinois trauma network. As part of a distinguished health system and teaching hospital, LUMC contributes to medical research with more than 120 ongoing clinical research studies.

Located in west-suburban Maywood, approximately 10 miles from downtown Chicago, LUMC occupies a 60-acre campus shared with SSOM and the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing and is adjacent to the Hines VA, one of the nation's largest veteran's hospitals. The medical campus is near the Brookfield Zoo, as well as the vibrant and historic Oak Park/River Forest neighborhoods. Public transportation and multiple highways provide convenient access to our facilities.

In addition to LUMC, the Health System includes Loyola-Gottlieb Memorial Hospital and Loyola-MacNeal Hospital as well as numerous outpatient ambulatory sites throughout the Chicagoland area. Loyola University Health System provides the primary clinical training sites for the SSOM, the School of Nursing, and the new School of Health Sciences and Public Health (Fall 2019).

## **MD/PHD PROGRAM ADMISSIONS**

Applicants are urged to carefully review the excellent guides to M.D./Ph.D. training and careers provided by the AAMC at:

**<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/applying-mdphd-programs-2/>**

**[HTTPS://AAMC-ORANGE.GLOBAL.SSL.FASTLY.NET/PRODUCTION/MEDIA/FILER\\_PUBLIC/A5/C6/A5C69840-5D46-4750-97E8-63FECDD1295D4/18\\_MD\\_PHD\\_IS\\_IT\\_RIGHT\\_FOR\\_ME\\_AAMC\\_FIN\\_1.PDF](HTTPS://AAMC-ORANGE.GLOBAL.SSL.FASTLY.NET/PRODUCTION/MEDIA/FILER_PUBLIC/A5/C6/A5C69840-5D46-4750-97E8-63FECDD1295D4/18_MD_PHD_IS_IT_RIGHT_FOR_ME_AAMC_FIN_1.PDF)**

At SSOM we employ holistic admissions. This means that we consider every application and strive to identify candidates who are well-prepared academically and professionally, and who fit best with our values. Applicants with a solid undergraduate record, strong scientific background, substantial research experiences, and MCAT exam scores above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile are considered competitive for the MD/PhD program. Due to the nature of the combined program and its expectations, letters of recommendation must include undergraduate or graduate professors who are very familiar with your academic capabilities, research accomplishments and aptitude for graduate training in biomedical research.

Prospective students must apply through AMCAS to the Stritch School of Medicine. Within the AMCAS application, the "MD/PhD" application option should be selected and completed in full. A SSOM secondary application will be requested shortly after the AMCAS application is submitted and processed. Applicants to the Medical School must be U.S. citizens, hold a permanent resident visa, or have DACA status at the time of application.