Scholarly Activities: Research Project

Completion of an original research project is a requirement of the Residency Program in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UT RGV –DHR. This research requirement affords several benefits to the residents. First, residents learn to analyze scientific literature critically. Second, residents learn the principles of project design and statistical analysis. Third, residents learn to develop visual presentations and gain experience with public speaking. The Director of Resident Research Projects is Dr. Donald Dudley at UTHSCSA.

Each resident will select a faculty advisor with whom he or she will work closely to develop, perform, and report a research project. Nearly all advisors will come from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. However, collaboration with faculty from other departments is permissible. The research may be either clinical or basic science in nature.

Each research project will involve the following steps:

- A research question will be developed.
- A relevant literature review will be performed.
- A protocol including background information, materials and methods, and means of statistical analysis will be written.
- Institutional Review Board and/or Institutional Animal Care Utilization Committee approval will be obtained, if necessary.
- The data will be compiled and analyzed using the appropriate statistical tests.
- A presentation will be prepared for Resident Research Day.

It is hoped that a manuscript will result from each research project. If an abstract resulting from this research is submitted and accepted for presentation at a national meeting, the Department may pay for the presenter to attend the meeting and present the research.

Residents are free to develop their own projects with faculty guidance or to participate in an ongoing project. A list of ongoing and potential faculty projects is maintained to guide residents in project selection.