

TITLE: Assessment of Medical Student Wellness in the State of Florida

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Physician burnout is a significant issue impacting both providers and patients. Research suggests that medical students exhibit psychological well-being that is equal to or better than their age-matched peers at the time of matriculation, but that wellness decreases and physical and psychological health concerns increase over the course of medical training. The current study will involve development of a statewide assessment of medical student wellness and distress.

The MSRP student will assist the research team with: 1) a literature review and evaluation of existing measures, 2) development of the study survey, 3) pilot-testing of initial survey drafts, 4) communication and coordination with students/representatives of other Florida medical schools. The student may join the faculty mentor in presenting the project to students at other Florida medical schools, and will have opportunities for authorship on presentations and publications resulting from the data collected.

This project would be most appropriate for students with an interest in psychiatry, addiction medicine, internal medicine, or family medicine who are interested in physician wellness/burnout and epidemiological/survey research.

Reference:

Merlo, L.J., Watson, R.L., Curran, J.S. (2017). Gender differences in substance use and psychiatric distress among medical students: A comprehensive statewide evaluation. *Substance Abuse*, 38, 401-406.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08897077.2017.1355871>