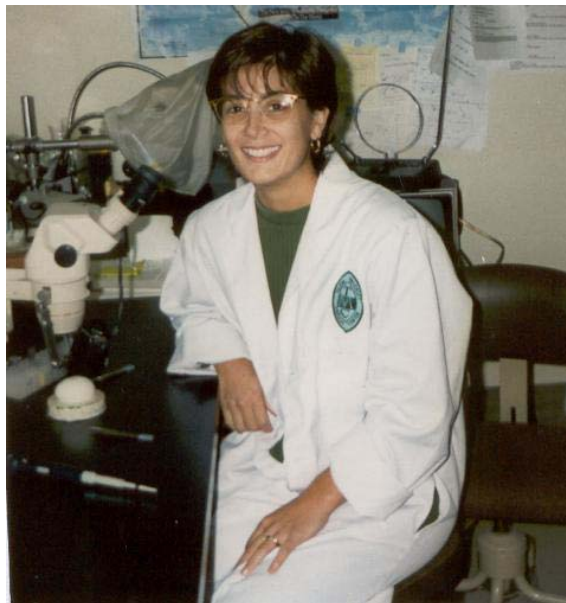




## Welcome!

The primary aim of the Physician/Scientist Program (P/SP) at Tulane University is to provide an integrated learning environment to foster the development of physicians who are committed to the advancement of the medical sciences. Students will acquire the necessary skills to become both sound clinicians and accomplished scientists. More important, the P/SP is intended to promote a view of medicine and science as unified endeavors rather than distinct disciplines.

The P/SP is a recent addition to the multidisciplinary programs at Tulane and complements already existing combined degree opportunities in the School of Medicine.



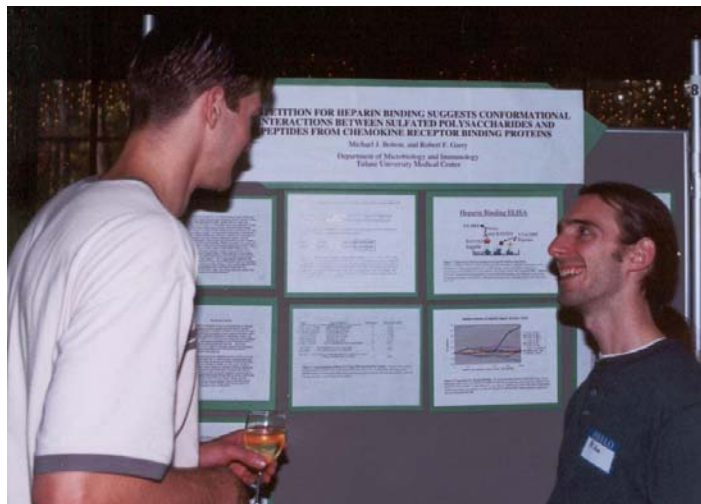
*Post-graduate education in the Biomedical Sciences is an important mission of Tulane University Health Sciences Center.*

# Program Description

The P/SP at Tulane will lead to both the M.D. and Ph.D. and students are expected to complete both degrees. The P/SP is for students who, at an early stage of their career development, have made a commitment to medical research as a long-term goal.

In order to foster a mind set that combines medicine and science, P/SP students will be exposed to a wide range of experiences throughout their studies. Matriculating P/SP students are encouraged to begin laboratory rotations in July, before the start of medical school classes. During the first year, P/SP students will participate in the regular medical school curriculum at Tulane. In addition, students will attend a seminar series in which Tulane and visiting faculty present their research. Between the first and second years, P/SP students will complete another laboratory rotation both to enhance laboratory skills and to help students identify the "best home" for their dissertation work.

The second year will be very much like the first. P/SP students will complete the basic science curriculum with their classmates and continue to attend a weekly research seminar series. At the end of the second year, P/SP students must pass Part 1 of the USMLE.



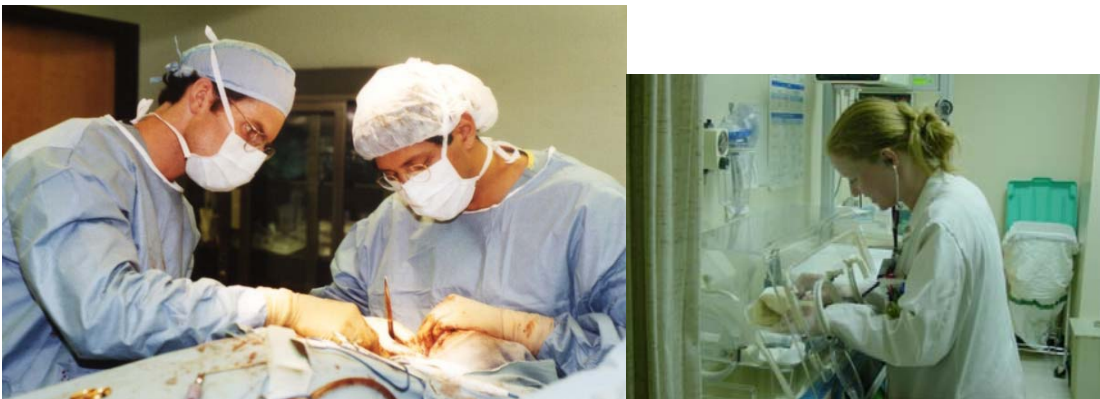
*The poster session at the Fall Scientific Retreat*

Having finished the medical school basic science curriculum, P/SP students will decide upon a course of graduate study and a research advisor. Students may select one of the basic science departments or one of two interdisciplinary programs in the graduate school at Tulane for the Ph.D. The interdisciplinary programs, Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) and Neuroscience, combine research faculty from virtually all of the basic science and clinical departments at Tulane. The basic science departments are Biochemistry, Human Genetics,

Microbiology & Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology, and Structural & Cellular Biology. Additional graduate courses will be completed during the third year to satisfy departmental requirements for the Ph.D. However, all P/SP students will select a research advisor within their field of study by the fall semester of year three and will begin an original research project.

The research years will be exciting and productive. The period of time devoted to research will depend, in part, on the field of study and the research project itself. In general, it is expected that 3 to 3-1/2 years will be required for completion of graduate level course work (if applicable), the research project, and the thesis defense. P/SP students are encouraged to defend the doctoral thesis before beginning clinical rotations in the medical school. However, students need not defend the thesis by July- the traditional start time for clinical rotations- as accommodations will be made for P/SP students to enter the rotations at later points in time. In all cases, P/SP students must successfully defend their doctoral thesis before receiving the M.D. from Tulane.

The final 1-1/2 to 2 years of the program will provide an outstanding foundation in clinical medicine. The required "core" rotations are of utmost importance in developing and cultivating clinical skills. Core rotations are followed by clinical electives. Electives are a source of continued learning and help students identify a medical specialty that appeals to them as a career. Students will work closely with a clinical advisor and the Dean of Students in selecting a residency that is best suited to their goals as a physician/scientist.



*Clinical rotations lay the foundation for being a doctor.*

# Admission to the Physician/Scientist Program

By its nature the P/S program requires that students have clearly defined long-term goals as well as a realistic appreciation of those goals. While rewarding, a career that demands expertise in the rapidly evolving fields of clinical medicine and science will always be challenging. For these reasons, applicants to the P/SP must demonstrate a refined understanding of this career choice.

Applicants must have evidence of meaningful research experience with strong letters of support from their supervisors. Publications are not required but are a means of demonstrating research productivity. Applicants whose research experience is limited to a summer in a laboratory will be at a significant disadvantage. Applicants must also be able to articulate cogent reasons for becoming a physician rather than a non-physician medical researcher. In this regard, exposure to "people professions" (such as teaching, nursing, social work) may be invaluable.

## Admission Guidelines

- Individuals who wish to apply to the P/SP at Tulane must so indicate by marking the "Physician/Scientist Program" box on the Tulane School of Medicine secondary application form and must complete the [P/SP supplemental application](#). The GRE is not required. Application to the Graduate School is not required.
- The deadline for applications is November 15, 2003. All material must be postmarked by this date.
- The application is reviewed independently by both the Medical School admissions committee and the P/SP committee. P/SP applicants who are invited for an interview will spend two days at Tulane. Generally, applicants will meet with research faculty on the first day and with clinical faculty on the second day.
- Please note that by applying to the P/SP, applicants will **NOT** be considered for admission to the Medical School for the M.D. only.
- We encourage applicants to stay with students during their visit to New Orleans. A list of student hosts is available from the Office of Admissions.

# Students



*The MCB spring canoe trip*

The Physician/Scientist Program was first implemented at Tulane in 2002. The following is a list of the students currently enrolled in the program:

T-1's:

Ardalan Minokade (*Tulane University*)

Charla Poole (*Tulane University*)

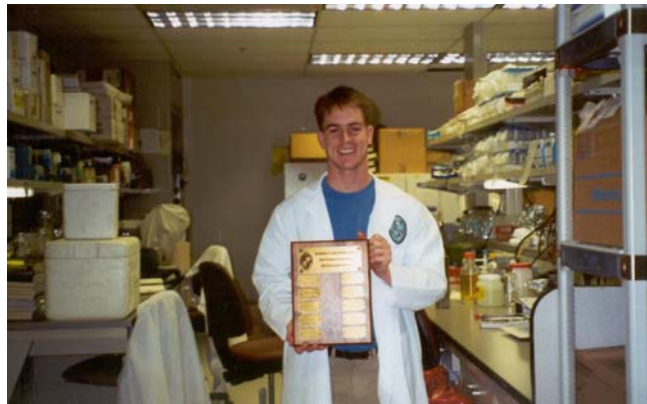
T-2's

Elizabeth Jensen (*University of Michigan*)

Adam Oskowitz

# Financial Support

For most students, the P/S program entails a commitment of seven years. All students are expected to finish within eight years. During this time, full tuition will be provided by the School of Medicine and the Graduate School. Once students begin work in the laboratory with a research advisor (year 3), a stipend will be provided by the advisor. The amount of the stipend will be commensurate with that of other students in the graduate program and will be provided for the duration of the laboratory project. P/SP students are responsible for housing, cost of living expenses, student fees, and health insurance.



*The Morris Shaffer Student Award. Molecular and Cellular Biology Program.*

# Additional Information

To apply to the Physician/Scientist Program at Tulane University contact the [Office of Admissions](#) (Phone: 504-588-5187)

Please note that, in addition to the Tulane University School of Medicine secondary application, a supplemental application is required for the P/SP. [P/SP Supplemental Application \(MS Word\)](#)

For more information about the Physician/Scientist Program at Tulane University contact:

Charles S. Hemenway, M.D., Ph.D.  
Coordinator, Tulane P/SP  
[chemenw@tulane.edu](mailto:chemenw@tulane.edu)

## Links

### Degree-granting Departments and Programs

[Biochemistry](#)  
[Biomedical Engineering](#)  
[Cell and Molecular Biology](#)  
[Chemistry](#)  
[Human Genetics](#)  
[Microbiology and Immunology](#)  
[Molecular and Cellular Biology](#)  
[Neuroscience](#)  
[Pathology and Laboratory Medicine](#)  
[Pharmacology](#)  
[Physics](#)  
[Physiology](#)  
[Psychology](#)  
[Structural and Cellular Biology](#)

### Other Useful Links

[Useful information about a combined M.D./Ph.D.](#)  
[General Information about the School of Medicine](#)  
[Academic Departments at the School of Medicine](#)  
[The Graduate School at Tulane](#)  
[Tulane Cancer Center](#)  
[Center for Gene Therapy](#)  
[Center for Infectious Diseases](#)  
[Hayward Genetics Center](#)



The [Tulane National Primate Research Center](#) is an invaluable resource.