



Dear Entering Class of 2021,

Welcome to the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine from the Scholarship & Discovery (S&D) Team! The S&D Team will be on hand throughout the fall quarter to introduce you to the basic concepts of scholarship; the core knowledge related to the scholarly tracks – Scientific Investigation (Basic/Translational Sciences, Clinical Research, and Health Services & Data Science), Community Health, Global Health, Medical Education, and Healthcare Delivery Improvement Sciences; the S&D milestones; and of course highlights of student successes with University of Chicago faculty mentors.

While the goal of the S&D program is ultimately to gain expertise in a specific area of study and complete a mentored scholarly project before you graduate, the realization of that objective is four (action-packed) years away. The first step on this journey is to *discover* your interests. While some of you may arrive with predefined interests based on your college or post-college experiences, many of you will also be uncertain and ready to engage in new experiences. In fact, we anticipate that you will likely engage in a variety of activities during your first year that will inform your choice of a project, mentor, and track. For example, you may want to volunteer at one of several student-run free clinics, arrange an out-of-country healthcare experience, start a Quality Improvement project, PE (Peer Educator) a course, or conduct bench or clinical research. Formal ‘class’ time spent learning about scholarship does not compare to really getting out there and participating in these activities to decipher your true interests. We are here to help throughout this process.

So for the moment, relax and enjoy! In August, you will complete an Intake Assessment providing a comprehensive overview of your background experiences and interests; the S&D Team will carefully review your responses to craft a personalized feedback letter that you will receive during the MS1 S&D Symposium in October. We look forward to meeting you as you begin your scholarly journey.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [scholarshipanddiscovery@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:scholarshipanddiscovery@bsd.uchicago.edu). We look forward to being your new home for scholarly research and resources.

With warmest regards from the S&D Team,

Rachel Wolfson, MD  
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Department of Pediatrics