Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering
Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Admissions Related Questions
What makes a competitive applicant?
• There are no GPA or MCAT requirements. Over the last five years the matriculated MD-PhD Students had an average GPA of 3.8 and an average MCAT of 35.91. The range of GPA for the matriculated students has been 3.01-4.0 and the range of MCAT is 27-42. We look for applicants who take more then just the required science courses. We want students who consistently challenge themselves.
• The research experience and future potential to become a physician-scientist, as described in the personal statement is the pivotal component of the MD-PhD application. Students should have a significant amount of research experience, prior to applying to the MD-PhD Program; at least one year and 1-2 summers.
• Strong letters of recommendation from faculty who know the student’s research experience and potential. We like sentences that read “Ms. Jones is the best student I’ve had in my 25 years at XXX University”.
• Publications are NOT required.

Do I have a better chance of getting accepted if I go to an Ivy League School?
• No. The Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program takes students from all universities, as long as they meet our qualifications.

What are my chances of getting accepted into the program?
• Each year, we receive about 300 applications and interview ~70 applicants. Nearly half of all of those who get interviewed get an offer of acceptance.

What is the application process?
• Complete your AMCAS application.
• Complete the Medical College’s Secondary Application (on-line instructions are sent to the applicant once his/her AMCAS application is verified.
• Download an application from our website: www.med.cornell.edu/mdphd and click on “Admissions”.
  The application is PDF and fillable on-line.
• Print out your completed application and mail it to the MD-PhD Office.
• Deadline is October 15th (every year).
• We have two Interview Days, Fridays October 29 and November 19, 2004. (Same Fridays every year) Early applications are STRONGLY encouraged. Each year we administratively inactivate a significant number of applications because they were incomplete when we had to make the final decision whether to interview or not.

Can non-U.S. citizens apply?
Yes. All students in the Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program receive full funding, regardless of their citizenship or visa status.
**Program Related Questions**

*How long does it take to complete the Program (both degrees)?*
Generally, it takes students 7-8 years to finish the program. If you did each degree separately it would take you about ten years to finish (4 years for medical school and ~6 years for the PhD).

*How is the Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program structured?*
Students complete two full years of medical school, followed by 3.5-4.5 years of Graduate School. Students receive their PhD and go on to complete the final 1.5 years of medical school.

*Why does the PhD portion of the MD-PhD Program take only 3.5 years instead of 6?*
MD-PhD students receive graduate level credit for the courses they’ve taken during their first two years of medical school. In addition, our MD-PhD students take special courses designed specifically for the MD-PhD students called *Frontiers in Biomedical Sciences I and II*. Students take these two one-year courses during their first two years of medical school.

*What makes your MD-PhD Program different from all of the others?*
The Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program is one of the older and larger programs in the country. In addition, it is the only program in the country where THREE institutions (within a stone throw of each other) combine to form one MD-PhD Program. All students receive their MD training at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Their PhD research may be conducted at the Weill Graduate School – in either Weill Medical College or the Sloan-Kettering Institute – or The Rockefeller University’s graduate school. All of the institutions are located across the street from one another on the Upper East Side of New York City (Manhattan – NOT Ithaca). The students do not choose their thesis advisor (or their Graduate School) until the beginning of their third year in the Program. Having access to all three institutions means the students have access to over 250 laboratories.

*What is the financial support package for MD-PhD students?*
All MD-PhD students receive a stipend (currently $23,000-$24,500 depending on the year in the Program), a full tuition waiver for every year in the program, and health insurance. Students in their thesis research years also receive a $3,000 lab supplement.

*How many underrepresented minority students are in the MD-PhD Program?*
The Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program has more an outstanding track record in recruiting and graduating underrepresented minority students. Nearly a quarter of the Program, and one-third of the first year class are underrepresented minority students. The NIH continually highlights our MD-PhD Program for its success at recruiting and retaining underrepresented minority students.

*Do you have a summer program?*
YES!! Initiated in 1993, the *Gateways to the Laboratory Program* was a pioneer. It was the first summer program in the country devoted to recruiting and training underrepresented minority students to successfully apply and complete a MD-PhD Program. Applications will be available on our website by December. Our deadline is February 1.