

FAMILY MEDICINE DISCOVERS: RAPSDI MENTOR DESCRIPTION

The Family Medicine Discovers **R**apid Cycle **S**cientific **D**iscovery and **I**nnovation (**FMD RapSDI**) initiative supported by the **AAFP Foundation** invites researchers and family physicians to serve as volunteer research mentors to applicant physicians. FMD RapSDI provides practicing physicians who have little or no research experience the support to serve as the Principal Investigator for a short-term, high impact project in the real-world setting.

The FMD RapSDI application is a two-round process. Four finalists are invited to participate in the second round, where they work with a mentorship team to develop a research proposal scaled to answer their clinic-inspired question within a 12-month timeline and up to \$40,000 budget. Mentor teams will be created with DARTNet Institute staff and, where appropriate, scientists and/or physician experts in the topic of interest. Proposals are due September 22, 2026. Two FMD RapSDI Scholars will be selected in Nov 2026 and will begin their projects January 1, 2027.

RESEARCH MENTOR EXPECTATIONS:

- Communicate regularly with the applicant while they are developing their proposal
 - *Technical assistance for remote mentoring is available*
- Participate in an initial kickoff call/meeting with FMD RapSDI staff in May 2026.
- Provide regular feedback to their applicant mentee as they develop their proposal
- Assist their applicant mentee in preparing a competitive proposal on a selected topic in time for submission (Due 9/22/2026)
- Submit a letter of support for their applicant mentee with the grant proposal
- Have the option to support project implementation and dissemination efforts if funded

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is a mentor's time commitment?

We estimate that a mentor's time commitment would be 5-10 hours per month, totaling 25-30 hours. Time commitments may vary depending on the experience of the applicant and the makeup of the mentor team. In some cases, a proposal topic area may be broad or wide-ranging enough that the expertise of more than one mentor is needed to create a mentor team.

Does a mentor need to commit to participating in the project if funded?

No, mentors are not required to continue involvement in the project if it is funded. Mentors can work with their applicant mentee to determine what level of involvement is desired if a project is selected for funding.

What is the value to mentors for their involvement?

Research mentors can expect to enhance professional development of an emerging primary care researcher and contribute to the advancement of expert, evidence-based family medicine that benefits the health of patients, families, and communities. Currently, no compensation or CME credit is available.