



NEMA Research Group runs a Scholars' Program that pairs Scholars with a mentor for the creation and ideally publication of a scientific paper. The goal of the program is for students, young professionals, and researchers to publish their first academic paper in peer-reviewed medical literature.

1. Mentors should be familiar with medical literature, publishing procedures (draft, submission, peer review), and publication ethics (authorship, no plagiarism, etc.) However, it is not necessary that the Mentor have extensive publication credits.
2. The Mentor should meet regularly with the Scholar. This is worked out individually between Mentor and Scholar but we recommend every two weeks by Zoom or phone call. It is incumbent upon the Mentor to arrange and assure these meetings occur. Ad hoc meetings may be necessary and appropriate and the Mentor and Scholar should determine the best ways to stay in contact (phone, text, Zoom, email, etc.)
3. Scholars pick their own subject for papers, although numerous ideas for articles are presented to them. When a Scholar selects an article, it is considered "in progress" and no one else works on it.
4. The Mentor may help the Scholar to "fine-tune" subject matter, direct methods for conducting research, assist in interpreting articles or data, and review early drafts. Every Scholar is unique so the role of the Mentor will adjust to meet the needs of the Scholar.
5. The purpose of the meeting is to talk about the Scholar's progress on the paper, to offer a friendly and supportive environment for the Scholar to ask questions or seek help, and to set milestones and goals.
6. The Mentor may seek the assistance and support of other NEMA Research Group members for subject matter expertise, editorial support, or other help, as needed. This would not be unusual and all NEMA Research Group members agree to make themselves available to the Mentor and possibly the Scholar as promptly as possible.
7. The Mentor should be supportive, encouraging, but also help to set goals and keep the project on track.
8. Mentors must be willing to work with their Scholar for a minimum of one year, although projects may be completed earlier than this.
9. Mentors should recognize that not all Scholars complete the program. While we do not wish to see anyone drop out, Mentors should be understanding if the Scholar no longer wishes to continue. This should be discussed frankly with the Scholar and Mentor and then reported to NEMA Research Group. The Scholar's paper topic then becomes open and available to others again.



10. If a Scholar is lost to follow-up, the Mentor should make efforts to find out what is going on and to report it to the NEMA Research Group. Some Scholars may drop out of the program and it is important that we find out as soon as possible if a Scholar wishes to leave.
11. Scholars and Mentors may contact Dr. Joseph Pergolizzi of the NEMA Research Group in the event that they lose contact with each other or require resolution of any specific issue.
12. Mentors are expected to participate in the papers of their Scholars in terms of concept, research strategies, data interpretation, conclusions, and reviewing of drafts. Mentors may in some cases wish to suggest specific articles to the student, help craft search strategies, provide editorial support, and even write short sections of the paper. The bulk of the work belongs to the Scholar who appears as first author. However, Mentors who fulfill the requirements of authorship as set forth by the ICMJE should be credited as author as well. If the Mentor does not meet ICMJE requirements, the Mentor should be acknowledged in the paper with a statement similar to this: "The author acknowledges the support, guidance, and constructive criticism provided by XX of the NEMA Research Group, Scholars Program, for their help and support in this paper."
13. There is no financial association between Mentor(s) and Scholar(s).
14. In some cases, two or more Scholars may wish to team up for a paper and in that case, the Scholars would share one Mentor.
15. While Scholars have only one Mentor, they are free to contact other members of the NEMA Research Group for specific advice and support, as needed. The NEMA team has subject matter experts, editorial experts, people who understand software, illustrators, social media denizens, and people who know the publishing landscape. These people are all resources for Scholars although the Scholar has only one official Mentor.