

The Stueber Scholarship:

A Philanthropy-based Summer Research Program to Improve Plastic Surgery Exposure And Research In Underrepresented Minorities

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Objectives

Diversity among plastic surgery residents **lags behind** other medical specialties. Research productivity can **increase** the competitiveness of a candidate's application and enhance their chances of a successful residency match.

The authors proposed a philanthropic approach to **improve the competitiveness** of underrepresented-in-medicine applicants to plastic surgery programs.

Methods

In 2014, the authors' institution implemented a Scholarship Program, created and financed from the charitable donations of a single alumnus. This **10-week summer research scholarship** provided medical students with research experience and opportunities in plastic surgery.

All past Scholars completed a questionnaire on satisfaction and reasons for pursuing the scholarship. The authors then performed a **bibliometric analysis** on each scholar using Scopus, PubMed, and Google Scholar **to identify published articles** since the scholarship and up to the point of residency application.

Results

Over the last 8 years, **15 medical students have completed the Scholarship**. All Scholars reported being very satisfied with their experience.



1:4 Gender Ratio

There was a 1:4 male:female ratio, and three quarters (73%) of students were from minority backgrounds (**Figure 1**). Only 13% of Scholars had a parent who was a physician.

Figure 1. Demographics of the 15 Participants

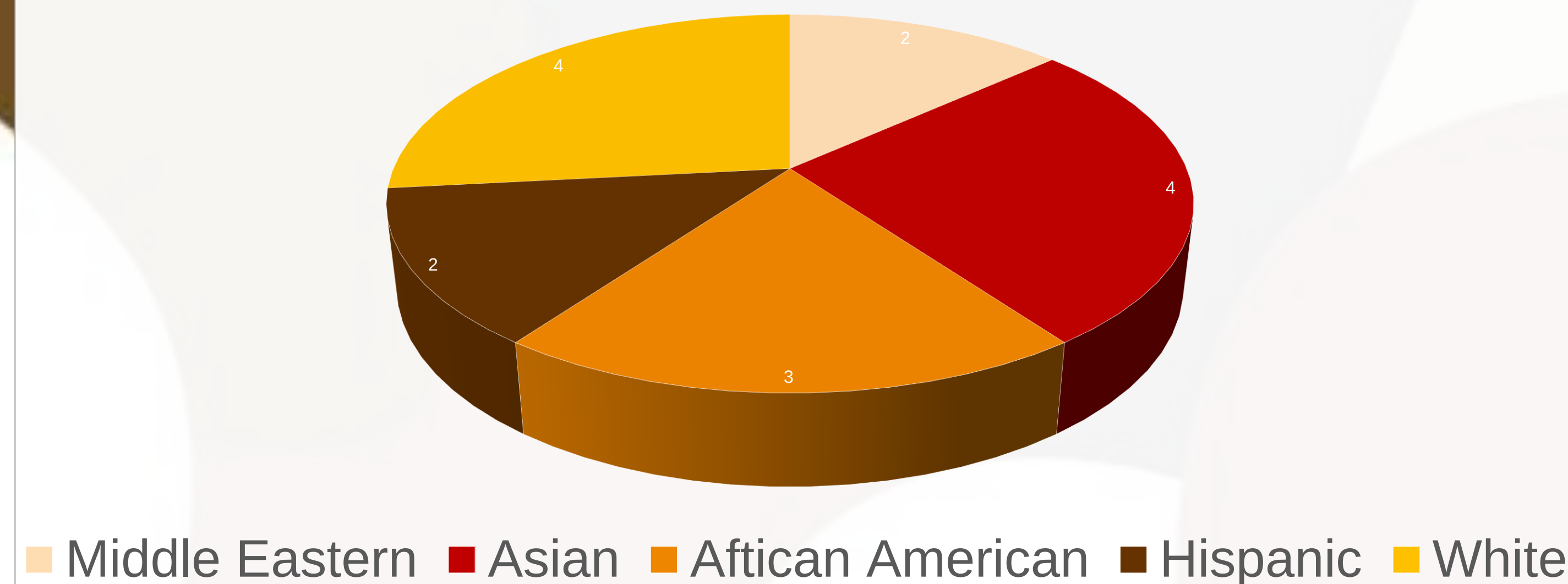
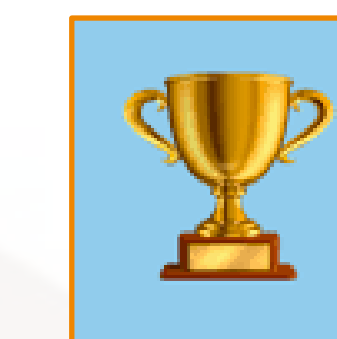


Figure 2. Reason for Applying to Scholarship Program	%
Gain plastic surgery exposure	100%
Strengthen match application	80%
Pursue research interest	47%
Financial aid	20%
Opportunity to work with the specific mentors	20%
Networking	13%

The most common reason for applying to the scholarship was to “gain exposure to plastic surgery” (100%) (**Figure 2**). On average, each Scholar was able to achieve by their match:



1.2 Research Awards



6.1 Presentations



5.9 Publications

Conclusion

The paucity of **diversity in the medical field** is a **complex issue** without a single panacea. This article demonstrates the impact of a summer program funded by philanthropy.

Medical students from **underrepresented** minorities had **remarkable increases** in their **research productivity and accolades**.

10 weeks of workshops featuring:

- Developing research methods
- Building career development skills
- \$1,500** Scholarship for attendee

