International Scholars Program
Mentor Responsibilities

A professional mentor is an individual designated to coordinate the overall experience and educational opportunities of an assigned international scholar participant at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH). The scholar is at NCH for an exchange of information in specialty areas of pediatric healthcare. The participants are here for observation only. They may not have a hands-on learning experience. During their stay, we hope that they will learn something about the culture of our community and country, as we learn about theirs.

Some of the responsibilities and considerations involved in the mentoring process:

1. When you agree to be a mentor, the ISP staff will arrange a mutually convenient time with you and the scholar. If you will be out of the office during your mentorship, assign a back-up professional mentor for the scholar, especially if you will be out for longer than a week.

2. The ISP coordinator assigned to the scholar will schedule an informational meeting with you prior to the visit, during which the goals of the scholar will be reviewed.

3. Develop a written plan of objectives and/or actions based on the participant's stated goals and the resources of your department.

4. Discuss the nature of the Stecker Scholarship program with your department prior to the visit. Stress that it is for observational purposes only (not patient care). Introduce the scholar to departmental staff. If possible, assign a departmental staff member to provide additional assistance to the scholar in your absence. Seek out ways to involve the scholar in the activities of the department and for ways to enrich the scholar's experience while here.

5. Outline a clinical, teaching, or research activity that the scholar can engage in while here at NCH and possibly continue at his or her home institution, if appropriate.

6. Go over your expectations with the scholar. Monitor experiences periodically to make sure you are both on the same page. Clarify and further teach as needed.

7. The scholar will be asked to do a presentation to hospital staff before he/she returns home. You will be asked to introduce the scholar at this talk. Please try to be available. If this is not possible, please designate someone to substitute for you. Please encourage your staff to attend this presentation.

8. If the scholar has questions about housing, Visas, transportation, etc., please ask him/her to contact an ISP Coordinator.

9. Contact ISP staff ASAP with any questions or concerns regarding the scholar.