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## #SIR2019: GEMS Program debut



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### #SIR19ATX: New initiative aims to foster diversity in interventional radiology

AUSTIN, TEXAS —Former [Society of Interventional Radiology](#) (SIR) President [Alan H. Matsumoto](#), M.D., FSIR, introduced a **new program to support diversity in interventional radiology by providing a travel grant for medical students from diverse backgrounds who desire to participate in a visiting clerkship in interventional radiology (IR) outside of their home institution.**

The **Grants for Education of Medical Students (GEMS)** Program was announced today at SIR's [Annual Scientific Meeting](#) in Austin, Texas. Matsumoto, professor and chair of the department of radiology and medical imaging at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, said the GEMS program is intended to attract medical students from diverse backgrounds to interventional radiology by providing scholarships to fund visiting clerkships/rotations in the specialty. **Students who are seeking to be the first generation of physicians in their families and identify as being from racial or ethnic groups that are underrepresented in the medical field, female, or LGBTQ are eligible to apply for these scholarships, as are students who come from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.**

"GEMS will allow medical students to gain an in-depth understanding of IR through a more personal experience in a new environment. As a prelude to the residency application and interview process, GEMS will enable selected third and fourth year medical students a chance to develop early mentoring relationships in IR and to broaden their professional networks," Matsumoto said. "This program will facilitate connections between IR training programs and the next generation of IRs who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend these clerkships."

"SIR and SIR Foundation are incredibly grateful to Dr. Matsumoto, his family and our inaugural industry sponsors—Boston Scientific, Penumbra, Siemens Healthineers, Gore and Cook—for supporting this important initiative to engage diverse groups of medical students in interventional radiology," said SIR President M. Victoria Marx, M.D., FSIR, an interventional radiologist at Keck Medicine of USC, and professor of clinical radiology and diagnostic radiology residency program director at Keck School of Medicine of USC, Los Angeles. "Through this program, they are helping us achieve our vision to increase the diversity of IRs to better represent the patient populations we serve."

"Diversity brings new ideas and innovation and GEMS will be an integral program in our efforts to ensure that interventional radiology stays at the forefront of medicine by bringing the brightest minds from all backgrounds into the field," said SIR Foundation Chair Jeremy C. Durack, M.D., M.S., FSIR, an interventional radiologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. "We are thankful to the Matsumoto family and our industry colleagues for their commitment to helping us increase the diversity and inclusiveness in the specialty, and to further enhancing the exciting future of interventional radiology."

For more information about GEMS, [visit sirfoundation.org/gems](http://visit.sirfoundation.org/gems).

Source: [Society of Interventional Radiology](#)

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