

## **Advice for Students Interested in the MD/PhD Program**

For those interested in combining basic science research interests with medicine, then the MD/PhD combined degree program is for you. This is what Dean Chang did after graduating from Yale. This is typically a 7-year program-2 years of medical school followed by 4 years of PhD, with a final year of clerkships. Then you do a residency (4-7 years) followed (or concurrent) with a postdoc (4 years). This is a long journey; Dean Chang was 36 before he landed his first real job as an Assistant Professor. But the MD/PhD program is extremely rewarding if you like doing medically relevant research. And it's free: you get paid a stipend during your PhD years just like any STEM grad student.

In general, you need to do everything outlined in the pre-med and graduate school sections. Yale undergrads interested in this program are usually STEM majors with intensive research experiences. Grades matter, and publications are a plus. Come and talk to Dean Chang if you are interested in this program.