Carmen Fitzpatrick, Class 2025

Campus: Round Rock Clinical Campus, Round Rock, TX
Research area: Influence of faculty mentorship style on medical student research experience
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Carmen Fitzpatrick is a medical student at Texas A&M School of Medicine and is conducting research in medical education under the mentorship of Gloria M. Conover, PhD, an Instructional Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Education at Texas A&M School of Medicine, specializing in medical education and translational science –cell biology, microbiology, and molecular biology. Their working hypothesis for this MSE project is that a positive UME learner research experience is crucial for establishing foundations for life-long scholarship—which ultimately positively impacts patient care. The key goal of this project is to improve mentor-mentee collaboration, which in turn will likely increase mentor-mentee research productivity. First, they plan to survey from a medical learner perspective how students perceive compliance with the nationally well-established and previously validated six core mentor competencies. These competencies include *diversity, aligning expectations, assessing understanding, fostering independence, maintaining effective communication, and promoting a professional environment* (Fleming 2013). Prior literature reported that an effective mentor-mentee dynamic significantly improves productivity, innovation, and creativity (Porter 2022). A future direction for this project may involve following the cohort of *MSRPP Fellows* through their clinical years to explore their mentor-mentee experience during clerkship training. After the completion of her MSE, Carmen would like to deepen her interest of how gender and race may contribute to research team dynamics and its impact on health care delivery.