Training and Education

Boston University CTSI

bu.edu/ctsi/training-education

Training is a core function of the CTSI. Our trainees are major sources of institutional transformation, many of whom go on to serve as Boston University faculty. BU and its affiliates boast an extensive breadth of research, comprehensive and diverse training programs and curricula, an abundance of accomplished and invested mentors, and close collaboration between scientists, clinicians, and clinical scientists. These factors collectively ensure a rich environment for the training of translational scientists.

David Felson, MD, MPH, Director of Workforce Development
Sharon Tomlinson, BS, Training Program Manager

Clinical Research Training Program - CREST

CTSI's Clinical Research Training (CREST) Program is an interactive mentored training program targeted at postdoctoral fellows and scientists, which focuses on the essential tools and competencies that scientists need to conduct clinical or translational science.

CREST overview

- Series of seminars combining faculty teaching and student project presentations
- CREST Fellows are awarded 16 credits towards a Master's degrees in Public Health; Epidemiology; Health Services Research; and Clinical Investigation
- Ethics instruction including an internship at the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Mentoring by senior faculty
- Mentored research project to be presented at a CREST seminar

Mentoring the Mentor

The CTSI has created a Train-the-Mentor case-based seminar series modeled on a successful program developed by a group of CTSA hubs. A sophisticated interactive training program, the program uses case studies developed and vetted by other CTSI groups around the country. Seminar topics include:

- Setting up a mentoring plan and defining mentors including team mentoring
- Career issues including guiding professional development and work-life balance
- Differences between mentors and mentees (gender, race, generation)
- Effective communication and difficult conversations
- Mentoring transitions (independence, grants/papers, mentee as mentor)

Mentored Career Development— KL2 Scholar Awards

A key institutional strength, CTSI's KL2 program is a mentored career development program for BU's most promising junior faculty translational researchers. Candidates apply annually to the program which generally supersedes the CREST program or T32 support and is intended to precede NIH K awards or R grants.

The KL2 program provides salary support up to $100,000/year for up to 2 years and also provides financial support for additional training, lab costs, and travel.

Faculty who believe they are well mentored have a higher perception of their research skills and are more likely to compete successfully for research support. Consequently, each KL2 scholar has one career mentor and two research mentors from different disciplines (clinical and nonclinical backgrounds).

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The CTSI's mission is to support BU's basic researchers, patient-oriented researchers, and population-based researchers working in all areas of translational research related to the prevention, diagnosis, and management of human disease.

Mini Sabbatical Award

The CTSI funds three mini-sabbaticals annually at other academic and research institutions, which are intended to encourage intellectual growth and multidisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration.

- Mentored faculty, post-doctoral scholars, project coordinators and research staff are eligible to apply
- Applicants are required to identify a sponsor institution or company where they are planning to take the mini-sabbatical
- Sabbatical must be used to learn about a technique, method or a field different from their own and relevant to their mentored research and career development plan.
- The CTSI awards mini-sabbaticals up to three months, supported by $6,000
- Foreign travel is not allowed on this award

K Grant Writing Seminars

Training for Clinical, Biomedical and Translational Researchers who are planning to submit a Career Development Award.

Participants in the course will:

1. Recognize NIH structure and Institute priorities, basic "anatomy of a K" including essential components of each section, and K review criteria.
2. Prepare all sections of their K award.
3. Critique previously submitted K awards as well as each other's CDA sections throughout the course and take part in mock study sections.

The ultimate goal is submission of a successful Career Development Award.

Course Director: Megan Bair-Merritt, MD, MSCE

PRIME Program

The PRIME Program, Pathways to Research Independence and Mentoring Excellence, is open only to K awardees.

This program is intended to help ensure the successful transition of K awardees to obtaining independent research funding, comprising a mix of didactic sessions, works-in-progress reviews, mock grant panels, annual K grant progress and individual development plan reviews, and grant writing workshops. PRIME also provides waivers for Core services that require payments and pilot grant funding to help obtain additional preliminary data for R01 submissions.

Co-Directors:

Tuhina Neogi, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Richard Wainford, PhD

BU Clinical & Translational Science Institute