



PRIME Program

PRIME (**P**athways to **R**esearch **I**ndependence and **M**entoring **E**xcellence) is a research career support program for faculty. Directors **Tuhina Neogi, MD, PhD, FRCPC**, and **Richard Wainford, PhD**, launched PRIME in October 2017 with a cohort of 20 scholars. One of the goals of the program is to develop a supportive research environment, community and peer cohort, and mentoring culture for BUMC NIH K Funded Investigators. Another goal is to improve the success rates of independent R01 funding by BUMC NIH K funded early career researchers, particularly of women and under-represented minorities. PRIME has been modeled on successful programs at other leading institutions that have shown high success rates in transitioning K investigators to independent R01 funding. The PRIME Program is designed to help faculty successfully transition to independent funding, aiming for stronger and earlier grants. The program offers an interdisciplinary peer-supported network; peer-led and reviewed works-in-progress sessions to optimize work; and interactive presentations and research resources to boost faculty efforts for successful transition from K funding to independent R01 funding.

Bi-monthly meetings feature interactive presentations of direct relevance to scholar research endeavors. The third Tuesday of each month is set aside for work-in-progress reviewed by PRIME peers and directors for constructive interdisciplinary feedback; including abstracts, papers, posters, presentations, and importantly, review of scholar grants' specific aims and other sections. Mock grant review panels are scheduled at least six weeks before intended NIH submission deadline, with insightful feedback by seasoned faculty. Each session will also have time built in to provide a "safe space" for scholars to brainstorm and troubleshoot with PRIME peer network about the challenges and issues that faculty face in their research trajectory.

PRIME scholars will continue to be part of an engaging supportive network supporting their activities and know how to locate and navigate access to research resources through the BU CTSI. The PRIME directors will continue to provide support, and anticipate that scholars will be able to help mentor the next generation of early career researchers through the same process. Program evaluators will track success rates over time and the directors will report this back to the research community so as to engage future participants and the leadership to understand how the program is working for our BUMC investigators and to continue to fund this program.