

## Research Professionals Network

The BMC/BUMC Research Professionals Network (RPN) has an overarching goal to enhance the quality of human subjects research on campus through an effective network of research professionals. Membership is open to all research personnel involved in coordinating clinical/human research on campus. Since it was launched in December 2016, membership of the RPN has grown to 180 members (as of the end of January 2018). The RPN has a Leadership Committee with representatives from various research roles and from major departments and offices at BMC/BU Medical Campus involved in the conduct, support, and regulation of human/clinical research.

The RPN has many objectives, including:

- Improve the competency of BMC/BUMC research professionals through educational seminars, trainings, mentoring, resources and other networking programs
- Support an effective, efficient system to keep network members up to date on changing policies and regulations
- Maximize satisfaction and productivity of all members of the research team
- Provide career development opportunities for network members

The RPN has pursued several major initiatives. There is an annual RPN member survey to provide a dynamic needs assessment and metrics to help plan and evaluate RPN activities. The survey indicated that a high priority for members were hands-on educational opportunities. In response to the survey, a series of peer-led workshops were developed and the workshops are delivered monthly to RPN members. Topics for the workshops are selected based on skills identified in the JTF Core Competency Framework for the Clinical Research Professional. Additionally, several study documentation tools have been updated or created for general use by research teams. These tools assist study teams in following best practices for documenting study-related tasks. To support these initiatives, a full website was developed with portals to each current and upcoming RPN initiative/resource. The website is constantly updated by the RPN manager to provide the most updated information to the RPN.

### Upcoming/In-development Initiatives:

New employee onboarding resources, such as a reference manual and onboarding training are currently in development. A mentoring program will match experienced staff members with a member new to or interested in a particular topic. The RPN will provide career development resources for staff to pursue professional research certifications through research organizations like SoCRA or ACRP. Finally, the RPN will continue efforts to connect with other CTSA's for collaboration opportunities related to the RPN.