An Essential First Step to Launching Your Independent Research Career

Early career researchers pursuing independent research careers need a clear roadmap.

The Program for Early Research Career Development (PERC) is designed to assist early career researchers in developing this roadmap. By engaging senior postdoctoral fellows, instructors, and assistant professors (MDs and PhDs), the program directors, Karen Lasser, MD, MPH, Professor of General Internal Medicine and Community Health Sciences; and Manish Sagar, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, assist participants to:

- Improve CVs and NIH Biosketches
- Write effective Specific Aims pages and evaluate manuscript drafts
- Identify useful tips and strategies in finding mentors and funding
- Leverage research consults, tools, and other resources needed to move toward research independence.

Using an interactive small group format of thought-stimulating presentations, engaging hands-on review and critiquing participant documents (aims pages and manuscripts), the directors inspire participants to assemble a requisite professional portfolio by the end of the program. The portfolio serves to attract funding through mechanisms consistent with the success of early-stage investigators awards such as NIH K grants and Pilot awards. The training catapults participants to reach the next step in their career development planning, which can include taking the BU CTSI Career Development Award Writing Workshop Series. Participants in this workshop series go on to write K and other career development awards submitted at the end of the workshop.

“Launching a research career can be tough and isolating. In this course, we provide support and camaraderie that we hope will extend beyond the end of the course, through peer mentoring.”
Said Karen Lasser, MD, MPH.

With support from the BU CTSI Staff and Faculty, participants learn more about and are encouraged to use CTSI’s Offerings & Resources to help them build their research support networks to ensure the success of their research projects. Participants can also request no-cost consultations and assistance from various BU CTSI services at any point during their research study through the Research Navigator Team.

The program consists of seven two-hour sessions that are offered twice a year in the fall and spring. Co-sponsored by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Department of Medicine, the program closes a known gap in the early career research development support that will enrich workforce development opportunities across the university. (See PERC Fact Sheet here)

Please visit our website for more information, and sign up for the CTSI Newsletter here.