Month in the Research Nexus

During the senior year of medical school, MSTP trainees have a series of experiences that provide significant exposures to clinical/translational research. Trainees spend time working with clinical researchers, attend Institutional Review Board meetings, SCTR Research Nexus advisory committee meetings, and lectures about various clinical and translational research topics. The major objective of the rotation is for each trainee to write a clinical translational study based on the discoveries made during their basic science research that he/she conducted during the PhD years. Alternatively, trainees may design an R21 grant based on their future career path. The trainee works with a mentor to obtain the guidance necessary to fully develop the clinical research study. At the end of the course each trainee formally presents his/her R21 to members of the SCTR Research Nexus rotation course, his/her mentor and selected other individuals. While this experience per se does not make the student an accomplished investigator, it will break down some of the myths and barriers real or perceived that have impeded physician scientists from conducting clinical/translational research.

Course Learning Goals and Objectives:

At the completion of this rotation trainees should be able to do the following:

- Develop a clinical investigation protocol based on the trainee's dissertation and/or research interest
- Apply appropriate statistical approaches in developing a clinical/translational protocol
- Demonstrate understanding of the basics of the informed consent process, IRB review, protection of human subjects, regulations, and budget management
- Employ effective strategies for managing research teams
- Demonstrate understanding of the importance of preliminary data, rationale for methodology and experimental design in the context of the presented research study

Mandatory Activities:

- Submit signed Mentor/Mentee Agreement
- Attend Literature search and NIH public Access library presentations unless previously attended session
- Complete a SPARC request to obtain a Biostatistics Consult for your power calculations for R21
- Attend scheduled R21 Consult
- Attend scheduled IRB meeting
- Sign consent to review Pilot applications. Attend and actively participate a SCTR Scientific Review Committee meeting (Mock Review)