

## **Cancer Research Training Program**

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### **1. Background**

Pilot a clinical research training program by bringing on international medical graduates as clinical research trainees/visiting research fellows to learn how to conduct quality improvement projects such as looking at ways to screen patients for clinical trials, improve eligibility reviews, assist with data extraction from EPIC to analyze the data related to the disease group studies they are learning about. In addition, have trainee/visiting research fellows shadow clinical research coordinators and Principal Investigators (PI) to learn more about the clinical trials methods and workflow at Mayo Clinic.

### **2. Goals**

- Research Trainee/Visiting Research Fellow will focus on a specific clinical research project with their mentor.
- Project will need to lead to a publication/abstract.
- Opportunities to shadow mentor in the clinical practice will be for research purposes only.
- Trainee will sit with DG clinical research coordinators.
- Collect data related to research.
- Utilize their medical background to apply it to the research done in this program.

### **3. Solutions and Methods**

- For the first three months, weekly meetings are established for the Program Manager to meet with each trainee and discuss the clinical trials process and how they can learn more about research. After that meetings are monthly to monitor progress.
- Shadow and observe research activities in both outpatient and inpatient setting.
- Attend disease group and tumor board meetings and observe.
- Mentored by a PI on all aspects of a clinical trial.
- Draft journal and manuscript documents with help from the PI.

### **4. Outcomes**

- Involved in more than 25 studies.
- Drafted more than ten manuscripts/abstracts.
- Invited to five conferences and presented a poster.
- Reviewed hundreds of patient data sets in EPIC
- Shadowed clinical research coordinators during enrollment and follow-up visits w/ patients.
- Participated in numerous local and enterprise meetings discussing clinical trials and collaborating with other investigators.
- Building and entering participant data in Redcap
- Performing numerous chart reviews
- Learning R programming language, May Data Explorer, Blue Sky and End Note for citation.
- Completing courses in Coursera

**5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions**

- Develop a smoother process for adding trainees to studies through the eIRB process.
- Offer the Visiting Research Fellow during the interview process to eliminate the change from trainee to VRF during the program.
- Expanded program from five to nine participants in first 2 years, hope to expand to 12-14 in Year 3 giving life-changing opportunities to foreign MDs who want to continue their learning in research and to get selected for a residency after the program.