### Moving From a Single Educator to an Office of Research Education and **RVJBarnabas Professional Development at an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center** in Under Five Years HEALTH

# BACKGROUND

In the five years since presenting to AACI-CRI, many changes have occurred.

- Part of an Academic Health System (AHS) with eleven oncology clinical trial sites
- Provide training to over 196 FTEs with over twenty distinct roles
- Moved from single educator to office with four educators and program coordinator
- Training is done at various locations, both remote and in-person

Additionally, the education department is part of other projects.

- Development of clinical trial internship programs
- Collaboration with a local university in the creation of a clinical research coordinator (CRC) badge
- Clinical site for master and undergraduate students
- Creation of clinical trial education in the community



Multifaceted approach to clinical trials education. Examples include:

- Increase education team education specialist, educators, program coordinator • Improve orientation program through Webbased platforms – Microsoft Teams & Planner • educating staff in a variety of different ways – in-person and remotely

- Expand curriculum to other roles (i.e., protocol activation, data management, budget analysis, etc.)
- Two-day Fundamentals of Clinical Trials Course • Implement an Anatomy and Physiology course geared toward the oncology clinical trial staff. • Investigator training through a web-based
- clinical trial toolkit
- Clinical trial internship for college students • CRC badging program with a university partner based on national guidelines
- trials with Health Educators
- Clinical trial practicum experience for students • Educating diverse populations about clinical



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# **METHODS**

# **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

To coordinate and enhance clinical trial education, training, and career development activities through Academic Health System.



## OUTCOME

Outcomes include:

- 94 staff onboarded in 2022
- Orientation checklist created for 20 distinct clinical trial roles
- Since 2019, over 100 attended a two-day clinical trial course
- Since 2022, five topics in the Anatomy and Physiology course have been presented, with over 30 staff attending each topic
- Intern transitioned to a staff role (recruitment specialist) in 2022
- Since summer of 2022, health educators have presented over ten clinical trial community education programs



# RUTGERS Cancer Institute of New Jersey **RUTGERS HEALTH**



### **LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

In the last five years, we have learned the art of resiliency. Working on the east coast and one of the first states to be hit with the pandemic, we maintained clinical trial operations and even had a 10 percent enrollment increase. We took advantage of the pandemic's challenging time and devised creative ways to work, such as remote work, utilizing web-based platforms such as Microsoft Teams, streamlining clinical trial roles, and collaborating with local colleges.

Future directions include a stand-alone training center (now open!), expanding intern positions to other clinical trial departments (this is done, too!), and building upon our clinical trial investigator education. In addition, we are thankful for the cancer center leadership support that has allowed us to grow within the education department. Through their support, we have continued to develop a robust clinical trial educational program. It will be exciting to see what the future brings us and to report all the impactful things we have accomplished in another five years.

