Cancer Research Training Program

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND
Pilot a clinical research trainee program by recruiting international medical graduates as non-paid clinical research trainees/fellows to conduct quality improvement projects such as looking at ways to screen patients for clinical trials, improve eligibility reviews, assist with data mining, drafting journal articles and preparing documents for eIRB submission. In addition, clinical research trainees are mentored by the clinical trial Principle Investigator, explaining and showing them the clinical trials process for patients at Mayo Clinic. They are involved with learning how to interpret data, help with drafting journal articles and are part of discussions at disease group meetings and clinical trials. Lastly, they shadow clinical research coordinators and PIs to understand the process better.

OBJECTIVE
To be mentored by Principle Investigators, learn from the clinical research coordinators and about how Mayo Clinic conducts clinical research.

METHODS
Program manager works with PIs who are willing to mentor a trainee, find, interview and select a trainee for the 15-month commitment.

RESULTS
Many trials have improved due to the work of the trainee. The Principle Investigators are extremely pleased with the progress and ask for more trainees to be involved in their research. Lastly, the trainee learns about research which will make them better clinicians in the future.

CONCLUSIONS
The trainees have produced amazing results discussed later in this abstract in the first two years of the program.
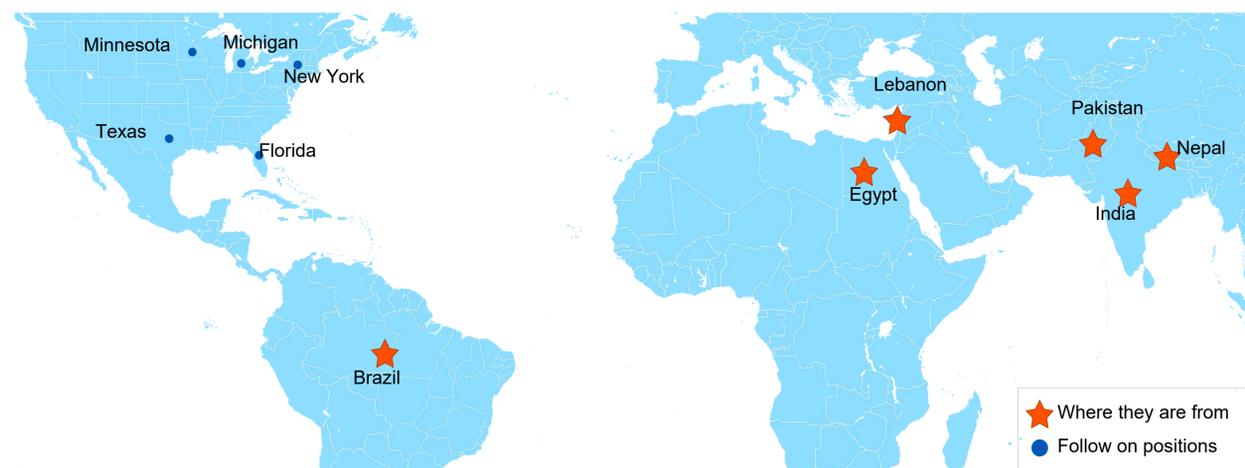
INTRODUCTION

Mayo Clinic already has a robust Research Trainee Program with over 3000 trainees from all over the world. We created the Cancer Research Trainee program from that model and focus on cancer trials supporting our cancer Principle Investigator.

OBJECTIVES

Screen patients for clinical trials, improve eligibility reviews, draft journal articles, conduct data searches, talk with patient on a clinical trial, present at a conference and learn about how trials are conducted at Mayo Clinic. In addition, the trainee prepares for their residency interviews with help from the Principle investigator I they support.

METHODS

We seek PIs to participate in the program on an annual basis. Once selected the program manager meets with them to discuss program outline and goals

RESULTS

PROGRAM RESULTS
- Involved in over 25 studies
- Drafted over 10 manuscripts/abstracts
- Invited to 5 conferences and presented a poster
- Reviewed hundreds of patient data sets in EPIC
- Shadowed clinical research coordinators during enrollment and follow-up visits with the patients
- Participated in numerous local and enterprise meetings discussing clinical trials and collaborating with other investigators
- Shadowed PI during hospital rounds
- 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
- Attending numerous Tumor Board Meetings

TRAINEE BENEFITS
- Learn some aspects of the clinical trial process at Mayo Clinic
- Work along side PIs who are experts in their disease
- Improve abstract/manuscript writing skills
- Present at conferences
- Collaborate with other research staff
- Learn how to work with other teams at our other sites
- Talk with cancer patients and hear their stories
- Contribute to research

TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES
- Hired into paid Research Fellow position
- Selected for Internal Medicine Residency at University of Chicago
- Hired into a paid Baylor Cancer Center research coordinator position in Houston Texas
- Hired into a Staff Physician position out of State
- Two moved up to a Visiting Research Fellow position

CONCLUSION

The trainees are producing great results for the Pis which improves research progress. For the trainee, they work along side talented PIs and prepare for their residency interviews with help from the PI they support.