

Cancer Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC) Mentorship Program

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1. Background

Robust scientific review of cancer clinical trial protocols is critical to providing high quality trials to patients that are both safe and effective. At Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCCC), a two-stage scientific review process is employed within the Center's Protocol Review and Monitoring System (PRMS). Stage 1 review is conducted by the Disease Group and subsequent Stage 2 review by the Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC) to assess the overall design, population relevance, and scientific validity of clinical trial protocols prior to activation. MCCCC piloted a PRMC Mentorship Program from January-May 2024. The pilot included four participants who were paired with a PRMC faculty mentor, shadowed PRMC meetings, and completed a practice Scientific Review Training Form. Comparisons of pre- and post-pilot surveys indicated that participants' knowledge of the scientific review process increased by 84.9 percent and 100 percent of participants were likely to recommend the program to others. These findings suggested that a formalized program would be feasible and effective.

2. Goals

- Implement a PRMC Mentorship Program to engage junior faculty and trainees in the scientific review process by providing opportunities for shadowing, mentorship, and scientific review training at PRMC.
- Raise awareness about the critical role of PRMC in delivering high quality trials to patients

3. Solutions and Methods

Key elements of the Stage 2 scientific review process were identified and mapped into a longitudinal learning pathway (Figure 1) to occur over a two-month timeline, and a REDCap system was built to facilitate the process through a series of forms. The pathway begins with completion of the program application. From there, mentees are paired with PRMC member mentors and given an Initial Knowledge Assessment. Following orientation with the program coordinator, mentees complete introductory meetings with their mentors. Mentees must complete the following:

- Participate in four PRMC meetings
- Participate in two meetings with assigned mentor
- Complete Scientific Review Training Form for one assigned protocol
- Present one protocol review at PRMC meeting

A critical piece of the mentee's experience is completion of the Scientific Review Training Form and subsequent presentation of their review at a PRMC meeting, with oversight and guidance from their mentor. Following completion of the program, mentees complete a Closeout Assessment, and both mentees and mentors' complete satisfaction surveys.

4. Outcomes

Since implementing the program in October 2024, the program has received 44 applications from across all Mayo Clinic sites, including the Mayo Clinic Health System. The first cohort of seven mentorship pairs completed in early February 2025. Knowledge Assessments and Satisfaction data is still being collected. Early feedback from mentors and mentees has been positive and in line with our pilot program.

5. Learned and Future Directions

Lessons Learned:

- The high number of applicants indicates that there is a clear appetite for this content.
- A structured onboarding process, regular communication, and clear expectations is essential for mentee success.

Future Directions:

- Expand evaluation metrics to quantify program impact.
- Seek additional funding to expand the program to include Stage 1 review

Figure

Figure 1. PRMC Mentorship Program Process Flow

