

Bridging the Gap: Academic-Industry Partnership for Clinical Research Training




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Background


In 2016, our Cancer Center recognized a critical need to fill vacancies in research positions with qualified candidates. To address this challenge, we partnered with Hillsborough Community College to create a pipeline of trained job ready research professionals. A committee comprising of college faculty and research staff created a 1-year certificate program and 2-year AS Degree that aimed to increase awareness and build research skills among health science students.

Goals




INCREASE AWARENESS

Expose health science students to clinical research through workshops, mentorship, internships and networking to highlight career opportunities and their impact on healthcare




SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Equip students with key clinical research skills through training in methodology, data analysis, ethics and hands-on experience, preparing them for impactful roles in healthcare



TALENT POOL

Develop a strong pipeline of skilled students by providing research training, mentorship and career opportunities, ensuring a scaleable talent pool ready for impactful roles in clinical research



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Foster collaboration between Moffitt Cancer Center, Hillsborough Community College, and the local community through outreach, partnerships and shared initiatives to enhance engagement and support research efforts

Lessons Learned

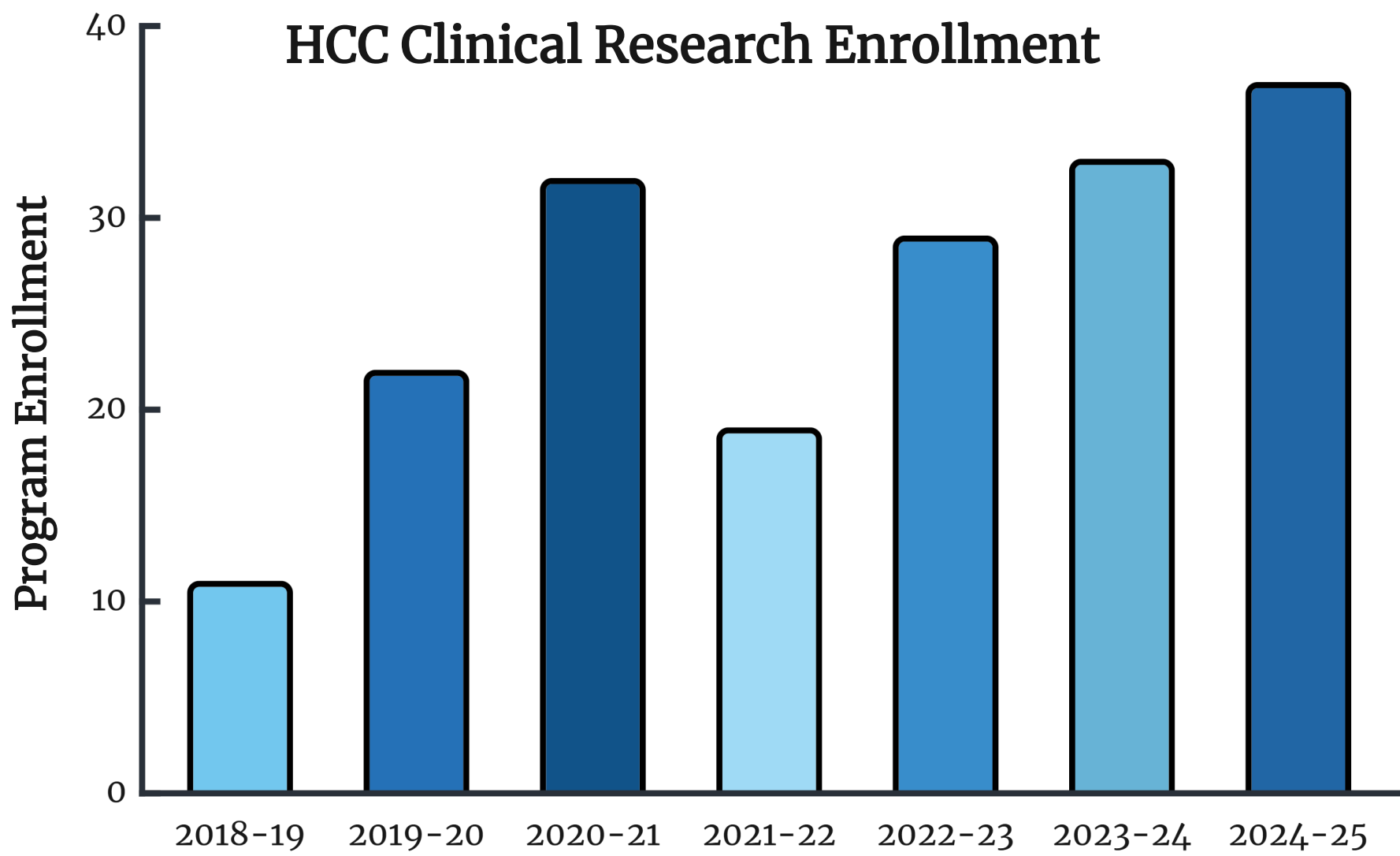
- Continuous Improvement: Regularly refine the curriculum to meet industry needs.
- Sustained Engagement: Maintain strong partnerships with the college and community.
- Expansion: Explore opportunities to expand the program to other institutions.
- Long-term Impact: Monitor graduates' career trajectories to assess program effectiveness.

Solutions and Methods

Curriculum	Workshops	Community Engagement	Practicum	Scholarship
Developed and continuously updated a 1-year certificate and 2-year AS degree curriculum in Clinical Research, balancing theoretical and practical components. Course content designed to ensure relevance to current day research standards.	Conducted annual skills building workshops working with faculty and students. Focus areas included resume writing, interview skills, and professional etiquette.	Organized community based events to raise awareness about clinical research careers. These events included presentations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities with professionals in the field.	Internship Engagements: Students interact with diverse research roles through internships. Role Shadowing: Students shadow professionals in various research positions in a 1:1 setting	Transformative Donor Funding: Secured funds to establish scholarships for economically disadvantaged students.

Outcomes

- Increased Enrollment: Rising enrollment numbers each year have been a testament to the program's success.
- Successful Hires: Several program graduates hired by the Cancer Center.
- Enhanced Skills: Students gained practical experience and improved job readiness.
- Increased Job Readiness: Shorter learning curve in training for HCC students.



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