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Education Research

Poster Title

A curriculum for aiding hematology/oncology fellows to succeed in research

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Most doctors in clinical fellowship programs have had minimal research experience but are expected to do research projects. For trainees to obtain value from their research experiences, and just as importantly, for the research to provide value to the medical community, these trainees need to rapidly acquire an understanding of the research structure within which they will need to work. A number of programs have been developed to solve this problem. For example, the Clinical Effectiveness course at Harvard Medical School is a summer long course that can be expanded into a degree program to teach clinical epidemiology and trial design. Alternatively, the annual workshop by the AACR and ASCO at Vail is a week-long intense workshop for teaching clinical trial design. While these courses are excellent, only a limited number of people can participate. My goal was to design a more focused program that would give fellows the basic tools to identify a mentor, think about a research project and navigate through some of the logistics involved. Thus, I am designing a curriculum in which clinical hematology/oncology fellows begin planning projects during their clinical training year(s). The plan is comprised of three components: 1. A set of short lectures on very basic topics that will show fellows how to begin asking research questions and to discuss them with potential mentors, 2. A series of assignments starting early in the first year of fellowship culminating in a short research proposal near the end of the first year, 3. Creation of a shared data vault for the fellows. The goal of this project is for fellows to have a plan and a research mentor as soon as their major clinical responsibilities are done.