

Timeline and Metrics for Clinical Research Fellowship at DFCI/BCH Cancer Center

		Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Year 1		Investigate Research Options	Choose Mentor	Develop Concept	Program in Clinical Effectiveness
		OR			
Year 2	Project 1	Draft IRB Approved IRB	Abstract	Review Article	Program in Clinical Effective
	Project 2		Draft of specific aims	Draft IRB	
	Grants	Internal BCH/DFCI grants			
Year 3	Project 1	Complete Data analysis	Draft Paper (P1)	Final Paper (P1)	P1 Completed.
	Project 2	IRB Approval	Abstract (P2)		
			Data Collection		
	Grants	Foundation grants			
Year 4	Project 2	Data Collection	Abstract (P2)	Draft Paper (P2)	
	Grants	K awards			

This “roadmap” provides for fellows and their mentors a suggested schedule of milestones for clinical research over the course of fellowship training. This is a suggested schedule to be used as basis for discussion between fellow and mentor during regular meetings and to be reviewed by the Scientific Oversight Committee at their annual review of the fellow.

Summary: Each fellow should have at least two research projects. “Project 1” should be a project that is quickly started , using data already collected that is aligned with the fellow’s long term research interests. The goal of Project 1 should be to allow the fellow to become immersed in the research field of interest, to learn some of the pragmatic skills of clinical research, such as how to write an IRB application, as well as to hone methodological skills. The milestones for Project 1 would be to have a draft IRB protocol by the fall of the 2nd year that is approved by the end of fall/early winter. By late winter, the fellow should have accomplished enough work to be able to write an abstract on that work to be submitted to a national meeting. The analysis should be complete by fall of the 3rd year and a final paper produced by end of the 3rd year. Because the conceptualization on Project 1 will have entailed a very thorough review of the existing literature, a review article should be written by the fellow, summarizing the background information of Project 1, by the end of the 2nd year.

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“Project 2” has a different horizon than Project 1. This project is the foundation of the fellow’s own clinical research program. In all likelihood, this will involve prospective data collection. The milestones for Project 2 are to have a draft of the specific aims ready for review by the winter of year 2. This will allow for a draft IRB application by spring of 2nd year. IRB approval for Project 2 should be obtained by fall of Year 3. Data collection and analysis will be ongoing and likely extend into Year 4. An abstract on Project 2 should be written in winter of 4th year. This abstract could report an immediate result of the work, such as preliminary pilot data or design of a new study instrument. If possible, a paper reporting an aspect of Project 2, if not the final results, should be available by the summer of year 4.

The fellow should explore opportunities for grant funding during fellowship. In year 2, the fellow should explore internal DFCI/BCH funding opportunities, such as Path to the Cure or Pedals for Pediatrics. In year 3, the fellow should be applying for foundation grants, such as the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, Alex’s Lemonade Stand, NHF-Baxter Clinical Fellowship Program, or an ASH Scholar Award. Starting in year 4, the fellow should be discussing when he/she will be ready to submit a K award.