Pediatric Research Training Programs

Career Development Programs
Associate Director: Heather Keenan, MD/MPH/PhD
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The Pediatric Clinical and Translational (PCAT) Research Scholars Program: PCAT is an intensive two-year research training program for investigators who conduct clinical and translational research. Developed in 2007 by Carrie L. Byington, MD, the program is led by Director Heather Keenan, MD, MPH, PhD. The PCAT director carefully monitors the progress of each scholar providing scientific and career mentorship. They meet frequently with scholars and their mentoring teams and enable peer mentorship opportunities. The program gives scholars access to critical services including biostatistical consultation, research coordination, research database support, proposal review and editing, and grants management. Scholars receive peer mentoring through monthly PCAT seminars. They interact with basic scientists at weekly Research in Progress seminars, the annual Woman and Child Research Conference, bi-annual Pediatric Grant Writing Workshops, and K Clubs within the Division of Neonatology and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science. From 2007 through 2011, the program has mentored 36 scholars and graduated 29 scholars. All graduates have received extramural funding through foundations, AHRQ, the CDC, or NIH. To date, PCAT scholars have been awarded in excess of $14 million, and 93% of those who applied for federal early career development awards (K mechanisms), have received funding. The Department of Pediatrics (1 of 22 departments), now has 54% of all K awards within the School of Medicine. Director: Heather Keenan, MD/MPH/PhD
heather.keenan@hsc.utah.edu and Program Administrator: Kim Clark 801.213.3757 or kim.clark@hsc.utah.edu

Child Health Research Career Development Award (CHRCDA) K12 Program: This NIH K12 award titled Genetic and Developmental Mechanisms of Pediatric Disease, funds 4-6 junior faculty per year ensuring them 75-80% protected time for research. Program Director is Carrie L. Byington, MD, H.A. and Edna Benning Presidential Professor of Pediatrics and Vice Chair of the Pediatrics Research Enterprise. The day-to-day management, mentoring, and monitoring of trainees in this program occurs under scholars’ primary mentors and their mentoring teams. Dr. Byington meets at least once a year with scholars and as needed to review their research progress and career development. PREP Office staff provides support for program administration, and trainees’ progress is monitored by an Advisory Committee comprised of clinician scientists from various pediatric subspecialties. The Advisory Committee meets twice a year to review scholars’ progress and to guide the program’s development. Director: Carrie Byington, MD carrie.byington@hsc.utah.edu and Program Administrator: Jackie Hinton 801.587.8968 or jackie.hinton@hsc.utah.edu

Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) K12 Program. As Associate Director of the CCTS, Carrie L. Byington, MD administers this Institutional K12 program for clinical and translational research. This program was developed in 2008 as part of the CCTS Education Core’s growth. Based upon available funding, a Call for Proposals goes out in January to department chairs and colleges within the School of Medicine. Administrators nominate their strongest candidates to go through the application process. Scholars are selected in April by the CCTS Internal Advisory Committee. Director: Carrie Byington, MD carrie.byington@hsc.utah.edu and Program Administrator: Jackie Hinton 801.587.8968 or jackie.hinton@hsc.utah.edu

Translational Comparative Effectiveness Research (T-CER) Scholars Program: The purpose of CER research is to improve health outcomes by developing and disseminating evidence-based information to patients, clinicians, and other decision-makers so that they can better respond to expressed needs about which interventions are most effective for which patients under specific circumstances. Carrie L. Byington, MD developed this training program in collaboration with the Utah CCTS including an established Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) degree program. She was able to access nationally and internationally recognized experts in CER methods, clinical and translational research, community engagement, economics, statistics, and career development. In 2010, fifteen scholars were recruited to the program including 6 women
(40%). One scholar (6.7%) is a Native Hawaiian. Eleven scholars (73%) are MD clinical investigators and 4
(27%) are PhD investigators. These scholars represent a cohesive cohort of scientists who will lead the
University’s efforts in CER. Several faculty members are working to expand CER course offerings across the
University. The University of Utah MSCI program also has been expanded to include a new track in CER in
recognition of this emerging field and the expertise of the University and our research partners across the
CCTS. Three (3) new CER courses created for this program, combined with existing MSCI courses, has
enabled us to apply for a new 12-hour graduate certificate in CER that will benefit the current and future
scholars. **Director: Carrie Byington, MD carrie.byington@hsc.utah.edu** and **Program Administrator: Kim
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**K Award Development Club - Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS):** The CCTS K Club
provides support to investigators interested in clinical and translational, and comparative effectiveness
research. K Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at noon. Investigators, at any clinical research
level are encouraged to attend and/or present their work for peer and senior faculty feedback. Faculty from
Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Psychiatry are regular participants. A **Basic
Science K Club** also is offered through the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Basic Science, Dr. Jerry
Kaplan. **Program Contact: Lynette Holman lynette.holman@hsc.utah.edu**

**Research Education Programs**

**Associate Director:** Maija Holsti, MD
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**Academic Associate Program (PED 5900 Clinical Research Methods and Practice):** Pediatrics 5900 is
open to junior- and senior-level students of all majors. The course is offered all semesters (spring, summer,
and fall), and may be repeated. Students receive credit for conducting clinical research designed by University
of Utah and Primary Children’s Medical Center clinicians. Each student must attend a mandatory orientation
(always the Friday before classes begin), a weekly class meeting, and 6-12 hours/week of clinical shifts
enrolling patients into research studies. Students who participate in this course work in a clinical setting, gain
exposure to clinical research, interact with pediatric patients and their families, and develop relationships with
Department of Pediatrics faculty. At the end of the course, the student will have gained experience in many
aspects of pediatric clinical research, including, but not limited to: professionalism in the clinical setting, study
design, Institutional Review Board, informed consent/assent, Good Clinical Practice, ethics, basic statistics,
and scientific journals. Investigators can apply for the use of the students’ services at no charge.
**Program Contact: Leah Willis, MS leah.willis@hsc.utah.edu**

**Native American Summer Research Internships:** The Native American Research Internship is a dynamic
summer research opportunity for Native American Undergraduate Junior and Senior students who are
interested in Health Science research. The internship is located at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City,
Utah. It is a 10-week, paid summer internship, funded by the National Institutes of Health. The internship focus
is to provide Native American students an outstanding laboratory or clinically based research experience
working alongside world class research faculty at the University of Utah. The goal of the internship is to support
the academic, career, and personal development of Native American students who are interested in Health
Science careers. Each student will participate in approximately 40 hours/week of internship activities.
Approximately 30 hours/week will be for research related activities, and approximately 10 hours/week will be
for academic/professional development. Students will work closely with research mentors as well as Native
American faculty and staff mentors, develop meaningful relationships within the Health Science and Native
American research communities, attend a Native American Health conference, and have opportunities to
shadow physicians at their clinical practice. Students will also gain insightful knowledge in the areas of:
graduate/medical school preparation, career development, additional academic opportunities, community
engagement, professionalism, creating scientific posters, and presenting research material. Additionally,
students who successfully complete a summer internship have the option of participating again during the
following summer, essentially being able to participate for two summers. The Native American Research
Internship provides students a stipend as well as housing at the University of Utah. Both University of Utah students and non-University of Utah undergraduate students are encouraged to apply. No previous research experience is required. **Program Contact:** Richard White richard.white@hsc.utah.edu

**Mentored Program in Pediatric Research (PED 7260):** In July 2011, Mandy Allison, MD, assumed the role of Director for this program. This program provides a means for students with a passion for caring for children to work with established pediatric mentors to design, conduct, present, and publish original research that could improve the lives of children. Senior level medical students are paired with senior academicians and mentors with expertise in pediatric research. This in-depth, mentored experience enables students to 1) develop a relationship with a mentor, 2) develop skills in pediatric research methods and scientific oral and written presentation, and 3) enhance their pediatric career development. **Program objectives** ensure that students receive advanced training within Pediatrics beyond the usual expectations of 4th year medical students, enabling them to pursue advanced research opportunities, and aiding their pursuit of high quality residency training programs. Program activities, including mentoring, are as follows: 1) students perform a research project focused on any aspect of pediatrics with a mentor (two 4-week blocks for research); 2) students attend monthly program meetings during the 4th year of medical school; 3) students present their research findings at Pediatric Grand Rounds in May of their 4th year; and 4) students are encouraged to present their findings at a regional or national pediatric meeting with the assistance of their mentor. **Director:** Mandy Allison, M.D. mandy.allison@hsc.utah.edu