ABSTRACT: 2017 ELAM Institutional Action Project Symposium

Project Title: Achieving Excellence in Emergency Medicine Research

Name and Institution: Corita Grudzen, MD, MSHS, FACEP, Vice Chair for Research, Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Population Health, New York University School of Medicine (NYUSoM)

Collaborators: Robert Femia, MD, MBA, Chair, and Ada Rubin, Division Administrator for Research; Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine, NYUSoM

Challenge: Emergency medicine is a nascent specialty, with a small but growing group of clinician-investigators and an emerging evidence base. The Research Division of the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine was created in March 2014, and is a rapidly growing example of NYUSoM’s stride towards excellence in clinical research. Thanks to the efforts of our research faculty, as well as departmental and institutional support, the department is now ranked 9th in NIH funding in emergency medicine, from being unranked just a few years prior. Despite our recent success, our growth is challenged by the scarcity of trained clinician-investigators in our specialty and lack of dedicated federal funds for emergency medicine research.

Objectives: To further increase our NIH ranking, the value of our grant portfolio, and the visibility of the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine’s program of research.

Methods: Our approach is to set clear faculty expectations around salary support, grant submissions and peer-review publications, to streamline departmental research operations, to build upon collaborations within and outside NYUSoM, and to identify educational opportunities to increase the pipeline of researchers in emergency medicine. Finally, we will leverage our recent successes to promote the reputation of our investigators, the department, our collaborators, and the institution as a whole.

Outcomes:

a. Faculty Expectations. Core research faculty will achieve a minimum of 60% of the NIH cap in research salary support from external sources, and will publish a minimum of two peer-review original research publications annually, including one as first or last author. All mid-career research faculty will submit at least one R01 or R01 equivalent annually, and junior core research faculty (<3 years post-research training) will submit a career development award within 18 months of appointment.

b. Research operations. We will further systematize all pre-award, post-award, compliance, and human protections research processes by creating SOPs, training curricula, and instructional manuals. We will generate monthly financial reports for meetings with PIs, as well as identify research space, investigators, and infrastructure across all clinical sites.

c. Educational opportunities. We will investigate a two-year research fellowship that includes a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation from the CTSI, and develop a business plan to present to departmental leadership. We will delineate fellow and resident roles in research, and consider a research track in the residency in collaboration with the Education Division and Program Director.

Impact: Clarifying faculty expectations around research productivity, further systematizing research operations, and investigating educational initiatives to increase the number of trained investigators in emergency medicine will further increase our NIH ranking and grant portfolio and enhance our reputation.
Achieving Excellence in Emergency Medicine Research

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