Engaging and Enhancing Success of Junior Faculty in Clinical and Translational Research in Neurologic Diseases

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Background
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- Many Jr. faculty desire to engage in clinical research
- Gaps: Lack of formal training in research methodology and grantsmanship
- NIH/NINDS: “Compared to fields such as oncology, … the clinical neurosciences currently lack well-established pathways for providing this kind of training for fellows and junior faculty”
- Success of pilot project in Epilepsy
- Brigham Neurology has the people to accelerate translational and clinical research development

Objectives

Hypothesis: Formalized mentoring program in clinical research can ensure that faculty are competitive for external funding

- Aim 1: Assess desire for NIBSS program and characterize participants & content
- Aim 2: Track proposal # and % funded
- Secondary Aim: Increased success will enhance career satisfaction and retention

Approach
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- Input from leadership (Chair, BWH President, Steering Committee of mid-senior faculty)
- Interview of PI of NeuroNEXT
- Increase visibility, via newsletters & Division Chiefs and faculty meetings
- Survey of Neurology faculty and trainees
- Measure ROI - create database to track success
- Create website with resources

Aim 1 Outcomes to Date

- Established buy-in from stakeholders
- Established website and increased visibility, resulting in desire for Track 2
- Survey extended, with 2 parts
  - Survey 1, n=35
  - Survey 2, n=33

Aim 2 Outcomes to Date

- NIBSS at BWH Harvard
  - Grant pre-review and assistance for Brigham Neurology

Conclusions

- NIBSS is desired and successful at BWH
- Diverse people, topics and interests
- Impact on structure
- Hurdles include broader faculty engagement
- Success may require tangible credits and support for staff and faculty time

Next Steps

- Assess applicability at new environment
- Track more accurately data and impact, & effect on satisfaction and retention
- Expand resources, e.g., biostatistician

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