

GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

ADVANCED CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Origins of the Program

The first of its kind in the United States, the thesis degree track of the Graduate Training Programs in Clinical Investigation (GTPCI) at Johns Hopkins trains clinical fellows to be more effective clinical scientists. The program was created in 1992 as a response to adverse national trends for clinical investigation and an acute shortage of qualified clinical investigators in academic medicine. The program is a joint educational venture of the Schools of Medicine and Public Health.

Since then, the GTPCI programs have expanded to meet the needs of other health professionals who are actively engaged in clinical investigation. Our participants gain the skills to design and conduct clinical investigations of emerging medical treatments and technologies, and to apply new diagnostic techniques and approaches to the study of human pathophysiology. GTPCI graduates are pursuing careers as independent clinical investigators at academic institutions, pharmaceutical firms and federal regulatory agencies. Most are pursuing academic careers in the United States and abroad in a broad spectrum of medical disciplines.

Degrees Offered

PhD in Clinical Investigation:

The doctor of philosophy (PhD) degree is our flagship program. The usual track for sub-specialty physicians is four years, leading to both clinical board eligibility in a medical discipline and the PhD.

Candidates normally take one full year of didactic instruction after an initial training year in a medical or surgical subspecialty. This provides the scientific grounding for subsequent original research. Faculty from the GTPCI and a preceptor from the fellow's School of Medicine home division or department jointly mentor thesis research. Fellows already enrolled in a clinical fellowship program at Johns Hopkins usually apply during their first year of clinical training.

Applications are also accepted concurrently with clinical fellowship applications for those who seek an early commitment. PhD candidates must complete 90 credit hours of instruction, including one full year of full-time coursework, with additional specialized coursework during the following two years, during which thesis research is conducted. A comprehensive exam is given at the end of the didactic year.

Candidates must satisfy all University requirements for the PhD, including preliminary oral examinations and thesis preparation and defense.

ScM in Clinical Investigation:

Trainees not wishing to or unable to fulfill the requirements for the PhD may be awarded the master of science (ScM) degree with the program's approval, after satisfying the course and thesis requirements.

MHS in Clinical Investigation:

The master of health science (MHS) degree is a one-year training program for physicians or other health care professionals with an advanced degree who desire rigorous training in patient-oriented research. The MHS degree track may also be appropriate for junior Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions (JHMI) faculty or post-doctoral clinical fellows who cannot accommodate the three-year PhD commitment because of departmental constraints or other issues. It is also appropriate for professionals who do not have an academic appointment within JHMI, and for medical students who desire intensive training in clinical investigation.

A faculty advisor will provide academic and career advice and monitor the student's academic performance. After all coursework is completed, candidates must take a comprehensive exam. Thesis research is not required.



Other Opportunities

The Science of Clinical Investigation Certificate Program (SOCI):

This five-course series is designed to enhance clinical scientists' theoretical and practical skills in design, implementation, and interpretation of data from clinical investigations. The program trains clinicians and support scientists in five core areas of clinical investigation with coursework offered one evening per week for a full year. This certificate is for non-credit only.

Highlight on Faculty

The GTPCI faculty are multidisciplinary, drawing from at least seven departments and disciplines within the School of Public Health, as well as from 25 divisions or departments in the School of Medicine. GTPCI faculty provide necessary skills, knowledge and mentoring for health professionals to undertake successful careers in clinical investigation, with a focus on patient-oriented research. GTPCI trainees have access to a variety of multidisciplinary faculty and educational resources generally not available to aspiring clinical investigators.

Choosing the Right Academic Path

PhD:

- Subspecialty physicians who have completed at least one year of clinical training
- Physicians who have at least three years of post doctoral support within JHMI
- Other health professionals with an appropriate advanced degree and substantial human subjects research experience

MHS:

- Physicians and other health professionals with advanced degrees with only one year available for full-time training
- Post-doctoral investigators without current academic appointments within JHMI
- Post-doctoral clinical investigators interested in coursework without a thesis research requirement
- Medical students desiring intensive clinical research training at the pre-doctoral level

SOCI:

- Faculty, trainees, staff and/or those outside of JHMI engaged in ongoing clinical research activities
- Those interested in pursuing an evening-based curriculum compatible with full-time job responsibilities.

Admissions

Apply online at

<http://www.jhsph.edu/Admissions/index.html>

Deadline: March 1

The following requirements apply to our degree programs:

- MD or appropriate advanced degree in a biomedical science
- Personal statement of professional and clinical research goals
- Letters of recommendation that meet the criteria outlined on the GTPCI website at www.jhsph.edu/gtpci
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants for whom English is a second language
- GRE or MCAT scores
- USMLE scores (if applicable)

It is hard to imagine doing effective clinical research without the essential training provided to me by the GTPCI. Although I learned many skills during the program that have helped me in my quest to measure and reduce medical misdiagnosis, the most valuable was how to critically appraise and design a research study to minimize methodological bias. This skill is absolutely mission-critical for any clinical investigator, particularly those conducting observational clinical or health services research studies the way I do.

- David E. Newman-Toker, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology
GTPCI Alumnus, 2007

Contact Us:

Graduate Training Programs in
Clinical Investigation
600 N. Wolfe Street, Carnegie 320
Baltimore, MD 21287
Phone: 410-502-9734
Fax: 410-502-6966
E-mail: gtpci@jhsph.edu
On the web: www.jhsph.edu/gtpci

