Development of a Research Protocol Development Curriculum
Pilot Testing in the Department of Radiology

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The UWSMPH is committed to conduct all research protocols in compliance with the highest scientific, ethical, and human subject protection standards but lacks a curriculum to train faculty how to proactively approach research protocol development/approval and efficiently negotiate our complex system.

Methods: The following steps comprised for execution of this pilot project: 1) Needs assessment; 2) curriculum development and 3) roll-out to the Department of Radiology.

Results: The need for this type of curriculum was reinforced early and often throughout this project through interviews and surveys before and after the curriculum roll-out. Many found pilots were identified. The curriculum presentation to the junior faculty in the Radiology Department was well received and improved self-assessed knowledge.

Conclusion: Post-test evaluations and survey encourage future expansion of this curriculum system-wide.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Junior faculty in the Radiology Department
- Leaders/members/reviewers on the IRB
- Leaders/members of the CTSA (the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research—ICTR)
- Leaders/members Comprehensive Cancer Center (UW Carbone Cancer Center—UWCCC)
- Leaders/members/reviewers Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (UWCCC)
- Leaders/members/reviewers on the Scientific Review Committee (ICTR)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Scientific considerations
- Background
- Study question/Methods
- Study design/population
- Disease/Exposure definitions
- Follow-up
- Potential confounders
- Measures

Logistics
- Relevant approval committees
- Planning/expected timeline
- Advice from a statistician
- Forms/software requirements
- Common mistakes
- Where to get help
- Protocol renewal expectations

FOLLOWING STEPS

1) Needs assessment
2) Curriculum development
3) Roll-out to the Department of Radiology

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

We identified a need for a protocol development curriculum at our institution and implementation resulted in increased self-assessed knowledge. These results motivate institution-wide implementation, with assessment of more important outcomes: decreased time for protocol approval, increased self-assessed knowledge, and increased grant funding/publications.

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