2015 Innovation Award Recipients

Development of a Maintenance of Procedural Skills "Short-Course" for Emergency Medicine Faculty at an Academic Institution

This research is aimed at developing, incorporating, and evaluating a novel model of a maintenance of certification (MOC) program for academic emergency medicine (EM) physicians. This pilot MOC "short-course" is designed to address the specific needs of practicing adult and pediatric EM faculty physicians within the academic medical institution. Faculty members are often charged with teaching procedures to residents and other learners at the expense of their own hands-on experience. In this work, faculty physicians' needs related to procedural skills are identified and a robust training and assessment program to address those needs will be developed. The program's impact will be evaluated and optimal intervals of retraining for improved retention of skills will be identified. It is anticipated that the incorporation of MOC "short-courses" will immediately improve the quality of patient care in the ED and improve our faculty's skill and confidence during their oversight and support of learners in the ED.

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Drug Discovery and Development Boot Camp

The Department of Pharmacology held a full day program to assist researchers in navigating the complex route through new drug discovery and development. The program brought together more than 170 basic, clinical and translational researchers from U of M, other universities and industry. Speakers from U of M, NIH and industry presented ground-breaking work on new drug targets, insights on discovery of new medicines, approaches for preclinical and clinical evaluation as well as routes to funding. The keynote speaker was Rajesh Ranganathan, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Translational Research at the NINDS, who provided insights into funding mechanisms at the NIH to facilitate drug discovery and development in neurologic diseases. Networking during lunch and the reception after the program afforded opportunities for researchers to interact and hopefully form new collaborations. With the success of the boot camp, additional drug discovery and development programs are planned for the future.