



Research Week 2020

Creating future leaders in women's health research: A goals-based evaluation of OHSU's oldest K12 career development program

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Keywords

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Abstract

Background

The Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program is an NIH-funded K12 award with the goal of supporting junior faculty to research independence. The Oregon BIRCWH program is one of 20 nationwide and is the longest standing K12 training program at OHSU. The program aims to develop junior faculty members through mentorship, salary support, and protected time with the ultimate goal of producing high-level, independent researchers in women's health and/or sex/gender differences research. Over 18 years, the Oregon BIRCWH has funded nearly 30 interdisciplinary junior-faculty members.

Objectives

We aim to quantify the success of the program through the analysis of scholar productivity through metrics such as receipt of independent K-series and R-series grants, publication output preceding and following their appointment as an Oregon BIRCWH K12 scholar, and impact score. Non-quantifiable metrics, such as obtaining leadership positions both within and outside of academia, will also be considered as a measure of scholar success.

Results

Leveraging nearly two decades of scholar narratives and incorporating conventional metrics of research success such as publications, citations, federal grant funding, and academic appointments, the Oregon BIRCWH Program is effectively meeting its mission of supporting and elevating junior researcher careers at OHSU.

Conclusion

As a long-running training program with set metrics for success, it is valuable to periodically engage in self-reflective evaluation to ensure the program is meeting or exceeding its federally-mandated mission. This evaluation shows that the Oregon BIRCWH Program has continued to fulfill its mission over the last 18 years.