

INTERESTED?

For further information on the CREST Program and/or application procedures, please visit our website at:

http://www.bumc.bu.edu/arthritis_center

OR, contact the Program Coordinator, Nilsa Carrasquillo at 617-638-5180, or by email at ncarras@bu.edu. Alternatively, you may contact the Program Director, David Felson, MD, MPH at dfelson@bu.edu.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: *How will the program benefit me?*

R: It will provide support to help you succeed as a clinical researcher.

Q: *How is this different from the fellowship I am already a part of?*

R: CREST provides support for clinical research training for those interested in entering an academic career. This is beyond most clinical fellowships.

Q: *Must I be enrolled in one of the degree programs before I can apply to the CREST Program or, can I apply to both simultaneously?*

R: You may do either, but you must be in a degree granting program.

Q: *Where can I get an application? What is the deadline for its submission?*

R: You may access our webpage or contact our office for application details (see contact info above). Applications will be accepted May through August.

Q: *Will I be assigned a mentor or can I choose one myself?*

R: You will need to choose a mentor yourself or the CREST Program will help you select one.

Q: *How much tuition support will be provided?*

R: CREST trainees will receive 16 credits over the two-year program. (This is half of the credits needed for M.Sc. or M.A. degrees)

Boston University CREST Program
715 Albany Street, Rm A-203
Boston, MA 02118

CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

CREST



Boston University

School of Medicine

School of Public Health

Henry M. Goldman
School of Dental Medicine

Sargent College
of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

"New opportunities for clinical research are growing at a rapid pace... and the present cohort of clinical investigators is not adequate... this may delay substantially the development of advances in medicine."

Institute of Medicine report on Careers in Clinical Research

PROGRAM GOALS:

To provide educational support and opportunities for health professionals interested in a clinical research career.

BACKGROUND:

The CREST Program is funded by the National Institutes of Health (a K30 award) and was created to address a critical national shortage in the number of clinical investigators in the United States.

ELIGIBILITY:

Students with a doctoral degree in the health sciences:

- ✓ MD
- ✓ DDS or DMD
- ✓ PhD (in a clinical science)
- ✓ Other health science doctorate

PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

- ✓ Enrollment in an MSc* in Epidemiology or MPH* at the BU School of Public Health or an MA in Clinical Investigation* at the BU School of Medicine.
- ✓ Attendance at a bi-weekly CREST Seminar (a certificate program). At these seminars, CREST fellows present their research projects and a variety of clinical research topics are discussed. Selected CREST seminar

topics include: writing a paper; grant writing; mentorship; doing clinical research in underserved populations; designing surveys; informed consent and withdrawal of consent; and information technology in medicine.

- ✓ Successful completion of a mentored clinical research project.

**NOTE: Some tuition support is provided for CREST trainees.*

DESCRIPTION OF DEGREE PROGRAMS:

The **M.Sc. in Epidemiology** is designed to prepare qualified physicians and other health professionals for research careers in epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, or health services research in which epidemiological methods are used. Clinicians who complete the program will be able to take leadership and supportive positions in a wide variety of academic and research settings. To earn the MSc degree, students are expected to complete 32 credits. Required courses include: Biostatistics, Epidemiologic Methods or Introduction to Epidemiology, Intermediate Epidemiology and Introduction to Statistical Computing. Students in the MSc program are also required to complete a thesis which generally consists of designing, performing and writing up results of a research project.

The **Masters in Public Health** will teach students the broad principles and methods for health research. The emphasis ranges from

quantitative approaches as manifested by the disciplines of biostatistics and epidemiology, health services or social and behavioral research. Students are required to complete a total of 48 credits including four 3-credit courses (Elementary Biostatistics, Introduction to Health Services, Epidemiology, and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health) and two 2-credit courses (Introduction to Health Law and Introduction to Environmental Health). These core courses provide the basic skills and knowledge necessary for a career in public health. Students must concentrate in a specific public health discipline and must satisfy the course requirements for concentrators. Disciplines include: Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Health Law; Health Services; Environmental Health; International Health; Maternal and Child Health; or Health Behavior, Health Promotion, and Disease Prevention.

The **Masters (M.A.) in Clinical Investigation** is a rigorous flexible degree program designed to meet the needs of physicians and other health professionals who will design and oversee translational research and clinical trials. There are three components: core courses, elective courses and a clinical research practicum with a thesis. The core courses required of all students in the program are Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Regulatory and Compliance Issues, Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials, Introduction to Medical Pharmacology, Seminar in Clinical Research, and Clinical Trials Management.

(University approval of this program is still pending)

For admission requirements to these masters programs, please contact Barbara St. Onge at 617-638-4640 or visit the Boston University medical campus website at: <http://www.bumc.bu.edu>