



The PROMISE Study

Peer group Research On Mentoring Scientists underrepresented in biomedical research (NIH- U01-GM132374)



Who?

Postdoctoral fellows holding MD, PhD, MD/PhD, or DO degrees and identify as racially/ethnically underrepresented. Participants should be engaged in biomedical research (research on the biological/behavioral processes that advance the diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention of disease) and be US citizens or permanent residents.

What?

UNC is part of a national effort, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Diversity Program Consortium to identify best mentoring practices for scientists underrepresented (UR) in biomedical research. This research study will examine a peer group mentoring approach to enhance scholarly output and academic advancement of participants. After enrollment (consent and two initial surveys) and randomization into a peer group, participants will have two-hour meetings twice per month for nine months, during which time they will complete two follow-up surveys. Sessions are focused on professional development and facilitated by senior UR biomedical researchers. After the peer group concludes, participants will complete a follow-up survey every six months, for two years.

Why?

Large sectors of the U.S. population remain underrepresented in the biomedical research workforce, including several racial/ethnic groups. Many reasons for this exist including more limited access to effective mentoring. Individuals from UR groups are often less integrated within their departments and professional organizations. Peer mentoring is a strategy that builds a mentoring community and has been shown to be effective for academic success.

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