

Three-Year Follow-Up Report
University of Utah
M.S. in Clinical Investigation
August 23, 2011

Program Description

The MS in Clinical Investigation degree program provides classroom and mentored research experience in clinical research, preparing its trainees for careers in clinical investigation, both in academic medicine and the allied health sciences. The curriculum focuses on the theories, models, methods, and tools used by investigators who conduct bench-to-bedside and bedside-to-community translational research. The program is designed to support a mentored research experience for fellows and junior faculty members at the University of Utah School of Medicine and allied health science fields. The M.S. degree represents an extension of a program at the School of Medicine that had been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2000 and continues to receive NIH support through the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences.

Enrollment Data

Students Admitted - The MS in Clinical Investigation degree was approved by the Utah State Board of Regents in April, 2008 and began admitting students in Fall, 2008. The projected enrollment for the program was 10 to 15 students per year. In the first year of the program, the number of new enrollees exceeded this range (Table 1) due to the admission of student who had begun taking classes earlier, in non-matriculated status, in anticipation of program approval. Program enrollment in the next two academic years met expectations. The program is experiencing growth in the number of students admitted.

Degrees Awarded - During the first three years of the program, a total of twenty students completed the MS degree (Table 1). In the first few years of the program, the number of new students admitted each year exceeded the number of degrees awarded. Some students, working professionals, are taking longer than two years to complete the degree.

Faculty - The Master's Degree in Clinical Investigation is awarded by the School of Medicine rather than by a particular department, with course masters drawn from several departments including Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Human Genetics. The 12-15 course masters each year devote 5% to 20% of their professional time to teaching in the program. Other Health Sciences faculty contribute to this interdisciplinary program by mentoring, lecturing and serving on supervisory committees.

Table 1. Enrollment and faculty, MS in Clinical Investigation

	2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012 (to date)	
	Est	Actual	Est	Actual	Est	Actual	Est	Actual
New Students Admitted	10-15	26	10-15	11	10-15	17	10-15	21
Degrees Awarded		8		5		7		0
Enrolled Students, Headcount		26		26		38		59
Faculty, Headcount		12		12		13		15
Faculty, estim. FTE		2		2		2		2

Budget - The MS in Clinical Investigation program continues to be grant-supported with a budget of approximately \$270,000 per year through the NIH-supported Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (UL1-RR025764 and C06-RR11234). In addition, selected students and curriculum development activities are supported through an NIH-funded Mentored Scholars Program for Translational Comparative Effectiveness (KM1-CA156723). Data on tuition to the Medical School related to this program can not be reported as this not tracked separately from tuition from other degree programs to the school.

Employment Information for Program Graduates

In keeping with the program goal of preparing clinicians for academic medicine, most students have been from the drawn ranks of clinical fellows and junior faculty in the health sciences at the University of Utah. Many program graduates are currently employed on the faculty of the University of Utah School of Medicine (Table 2). Also in fulfillment of the program goals, all of the graduates are publishing in the peer-reviewed biomedical research literature, and a number have obtained external funding for their research activities.

Table 2. Employment information for MS in Clinical Investigation graduates, by year of MS degree

MS Year	Name	Prior Deg.	Current Employment		
			Employer	Position	Department
2011	Cara Heuser	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Obstetrics and Gynecology
2011	Makoto Jones	MD	University of Utah	Instructor	Internal Medicine
2011	Divya Verma	MBBS	University of Utah	Fellow	Internal Medicine
2010	Nazem Akoum	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Internal Medicine
2010	Feras Bader	MD	University of Utah	Associate Professor	Internal Medicine
2010	Samuel Brown	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Internal Medicine
2010	Shawn Gurtcheff	MD	Seattle Reproductive Medicine	Physician	
2010	Tracy Manuck	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Obstetrics and Gynecology
2010	Nelangi Pinto	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
2010	Josh Schiffman	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
2010	Michelle Schober	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
2010	Bryan Stone	MD	University of Utah	Associate Professor	Pediatrics
2009	Titus Chan	MD	University of Utah	Fellow	Pediatrics
2009	Erin Clark	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Obstetrics and Gynecology
2009	Tracy Frech	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Internal Medicine
2009	Marta Heilbrun	MD	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Radiology
2009	Lillian Khor	MBBCH	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Internal Medicine
2009	Triscia Martin	PA	Johns Hopkins Hospital	Physician Assistant	

2009	R. Kevin Rogers	MD	Harvard, Mass. General Hospital	Fellow	Cardiology
2009	Julie Shakib	DO	University of Utah	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
