

Position: Innovation Accelerator Internship

Project: Penn Trials, a tool for help match patients to clinical trials

Logistics:

- 15-20 hours/week February 2017 - April 2017
- Reporting to the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Penn Medicine
- Location: Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, 10th Floor, South Pavilion, Office 12-161
- Sponsored by the Center for Health Care Innovation

Project:

Clinical trials remain the most important path to advancing cancer care worldwide, but very few patients participate in trials. In assembling our recent National Cancer Institute Cancer Center support grant for Penn, the Division of Oncology found that accrual to investigator-initiated trials dropped over a 5 year period (2010-2015) despite an increasing trial portfolio. Currently we enroll < 20% of eligible patients onto clinical trials. While there are many reasons for this, one notable reason is that clinical trial eligibility criteria and slot openings are increasingly complicated in the era of multi-institution studies. Physicians are not of aware of eligibility criteria and do not know slot availability for their patients. The Penn Trials project seeks to improve clinical trial enrollment at the provider/system level by creating a Penn-specific trial database accessible at the point of care. While trial databases do exist (most notably, ClinicalTrials.gov and Emerging Med), they are limited by poor user interface (difficulty filtering trials or finding Penn-specific trials) and unreliable/out-of-date information. Providing access to centralized, accurate trial information updated in real time and available in an intuitive format will facilitate clinical trial accrual and will improve the yield of referrals for consideration of clinical trials. We are in the process of launching the project's first pilot in the phase 1 clinical trial group and plan to rapidly expand the scope of the database to other disease groups. This project is a collaboration with the Center for Health Care Innovation.

Roles:

- Project management: coordinating one or more pilots to test our hypotheses
- Helping with experimental study design for these pilots
- Recruiting physicians for the pilot
- Conduct physician and patient interviews and other forms of contextual inquiry to understand their experiences
- Collaboration with clinical research coordinators
- Data management of the clinical trial database
- Data collection and analysis
- Preparing results for publication

How to apply:

Send the information below to innovationtech@uphs.upenn.edu.

- CV
- Current degree program and year

- # of hours available per week