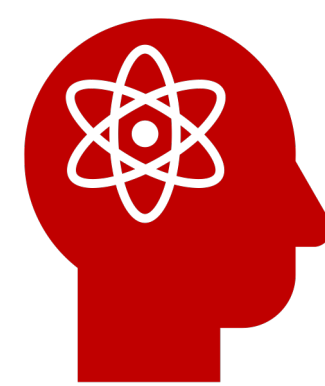


Introduction

The global pandemic has necessitated innovative strategies for training clinical and translational scientists.

Challenge: Restricted access of trainees to campus and clinical sites limited recruitment and engagement in traditional programs, including our clinical research management fellowship.

Response: In September 2020, the Workforce Development Core of the NJ ACTS Hub sought to quickly develop and launch a virtual 10-week internship program within the NJ ACTS community. The success of this program has extended beyond the early pandemic lockdowns and continues to advance training needs as students return to campus.



Target Learning Community:
Undergraduate, Professional and Graduate Students Interested in Translational Science

Internship Learning Goals

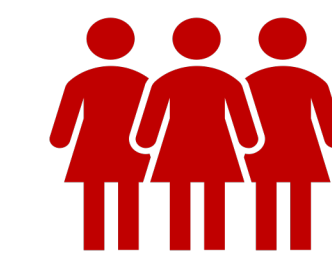
- Increase understanding of how science is translated (T0 -> T4).
- Enhance networking with translational researchers including TL1 and KL2 trainees.
- Improve communication of translational science.
- Develop professional online presence that supports career enhancement and visibility.
- Identify gaps in translational science competencies and develop training plans.
- Integrate clinical and translational science into career plans.
- Explore additional training opportunities in clinical and translational science.

Intern Activities

- Project-specific deliverables defined by supervisor.
- Weekly mentoring meetings with supervisor.
- Skills assessment.
- Participation in targeted and broad training activities to address deficiencies in translational science competencies.
- Biweekly meetings with other interns and NJ ACTS trainees and leadership.
- Creation of an effective LinkedIn profile.
- Development of a graphical and written abstract.
- Final presentation.
- Dissemination of projects via social media as well as publications and national presentations

Program Overview

Intern Demographics



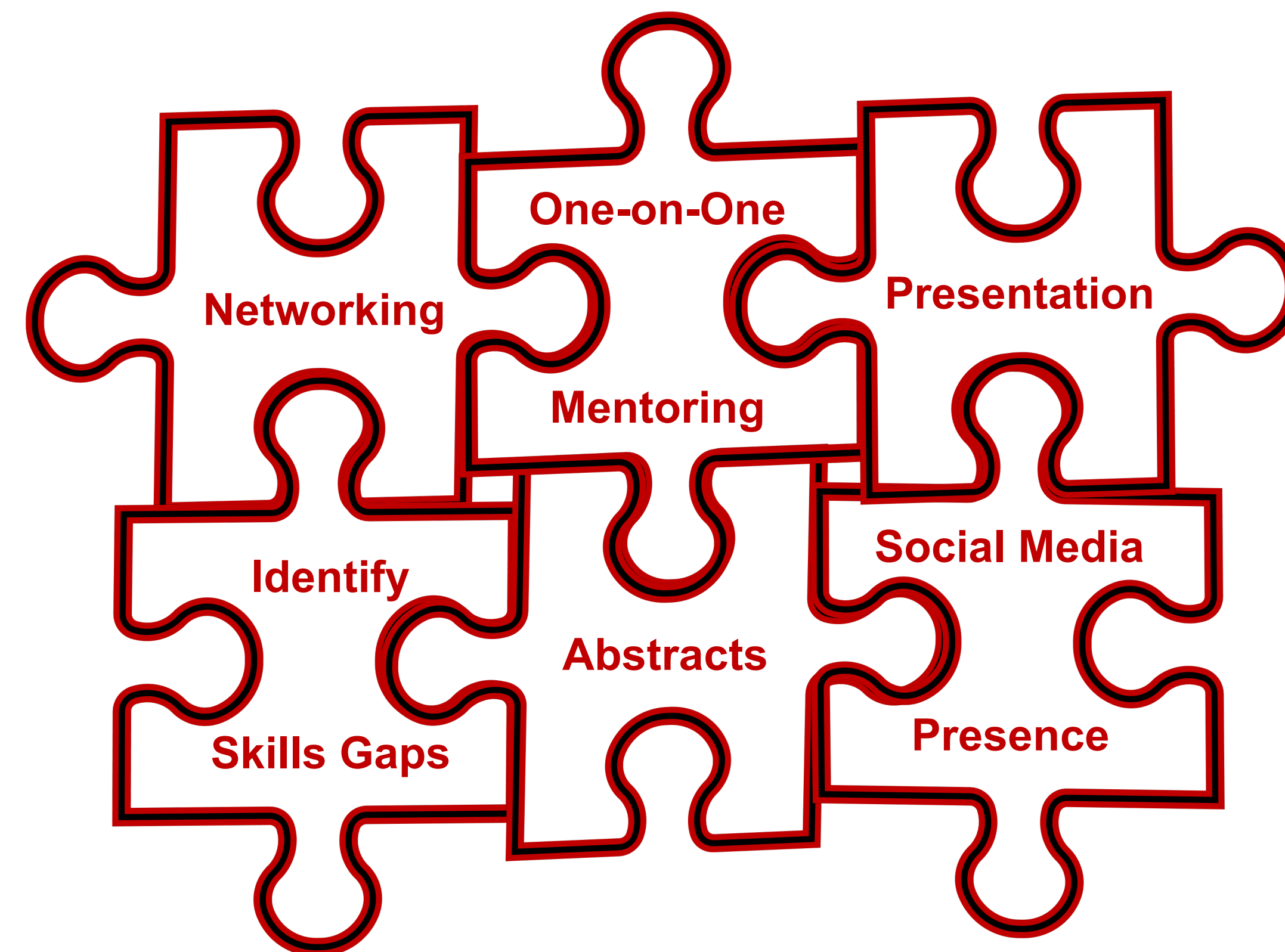
42 Interns Across Three Cohorts

- 3 Universities**
- 14 Majors/Programs**
- 64% Female**
- 25% Underrepresented**
- 16% First-in-College**



34 Projects with Mentors Across UL1, KL2, TL1

Internship Components



Training Sessions



What is Translational Research?

Communicating Your Translational Science

Standing Out with an Engaging LinkedIn Profile

Developing Effective Graphical & Written Abstracts

Goal of Analysis



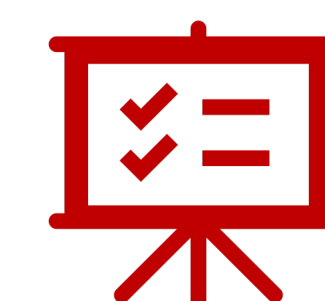
We sought to evaluate how intern projects within NJ ACTS align with the competencies needed for pursuit of translational science.

Analysis of Intern Projects and Competency Skills

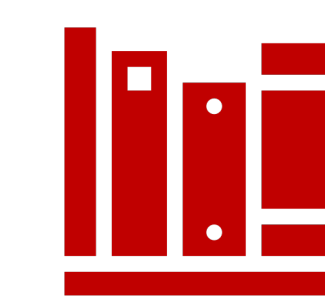
		INTERN PROJECTS																																			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
DOMAIN EXPERT	Domain Expertise																																				
	Research Skills																																				
BOUNDARY CROSSER/ SYSTEMS THINKER	Pre-clinical Research																																				
	Clinical Research																																				
	Clinical Implementation & Public Health																																				
RIGOROUS RESEARCHER	Regulatory Environment																																				
	Marketing																																				
	Research Discipline																																				
	Research Integrity																																				
PROCESS INNOVATOR	Reproducibility																																				
	Protection of Human Subjects																																				
TEAM PLAYER + SKILLED COMMUNICATOR	Innovation																																				
	Technical Tools in Preclinical/Clin Dev't																																				
COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS	Team Science																																				
	Patient Engagement																																				
	Communication and Dissemination																																				
COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS	Teaching																																				
	Personal Development																																				
	Time Management																																				
	Project Management																																				
COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS	Entrepreneurship																																				
	Financial Management																																				

Intern mentors mapped their projects to the C-COMEND competency profile for translational scientists which were further aligned with the seven fundamental character traits defined by Translation Together.

Key Findings



More than 75% of intern projects addressed the C-COMEND competencies in Personal Development, Communication and Dissemination, Project Management and Time Management.



Competencies needed for development as a 'Rigorous Researcher' were most consistently addressed across the intern projects.

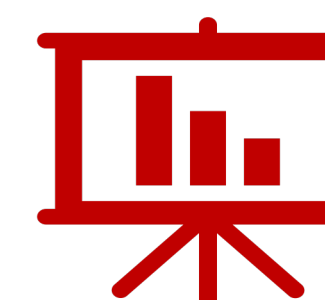


Few projects (< 10%) focused on skills related to preclinical or clinical research.



Intern projects fostered a number of skills needed for becoming a 'Domain Expert' and 'Skilled Communicator'.

Intern Outcomes



16 Posters at ACTS Meetings

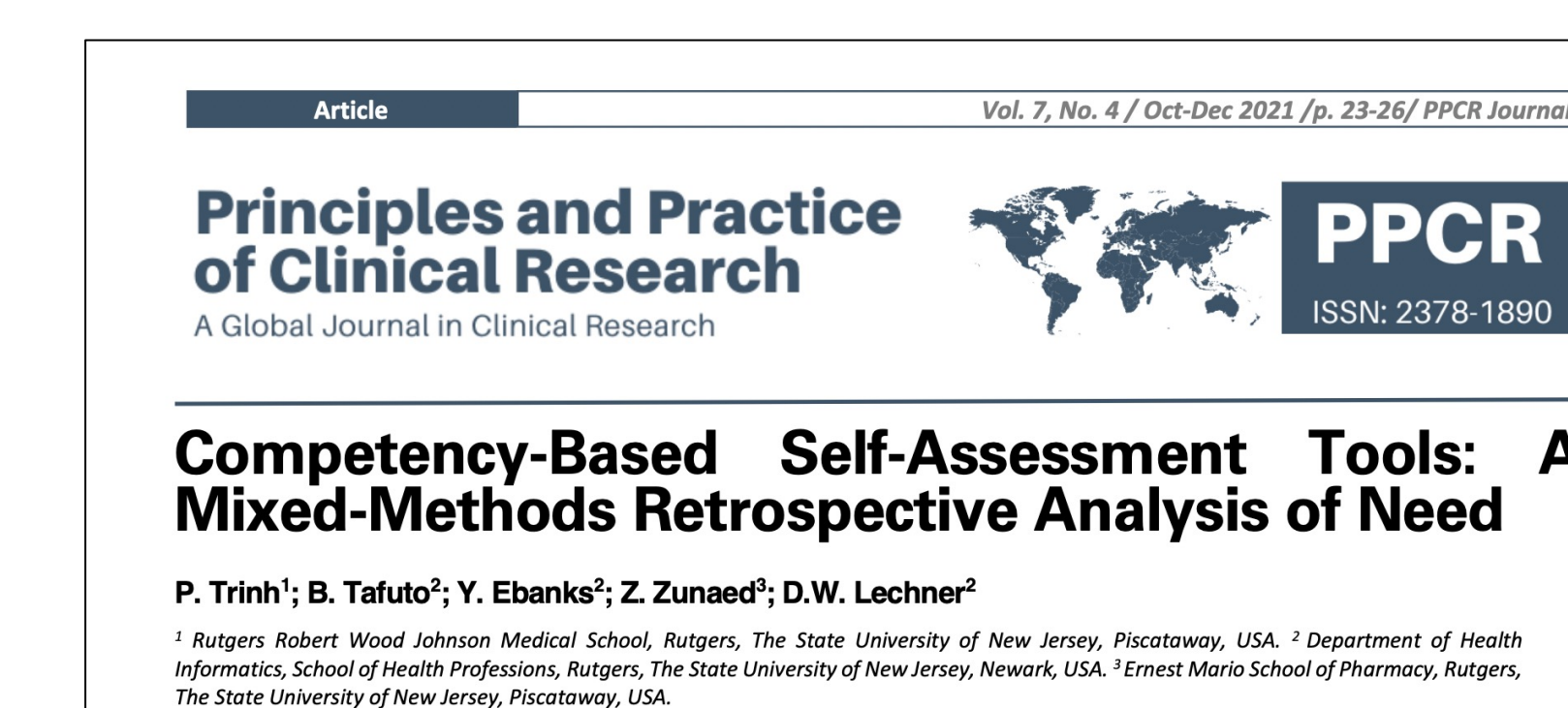


7 Publications

Example Publications

Journal of Clinical and Translational Science

www.cambridge.org/cts
Clinical Research Article



COVID-19 pandemic response varies by clinical trial sponsor type

Lisa Cooper¹, Irene Lee² and Doreen Waldron Lechner¹

¹Department of Health Informatics, School of Health Professions, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark, NJ, USA and ²Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, NJ, USA

Intern Feedback



At the end of each cohort, interns were asked to use 5 words to describe their internship experience. The word cloud represents the most frequent words recorded.

<https://njacts.rbhs.rutgers.edu/>

Take Home Message

A virtual internship program can be designed to introduce and/or refine the competency skills needed for translational science.

Acknowledgments



Supported by the New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science Grant UL1TR003017 and the NIEHS P30 Center ES005022