

Clinical Addiction Research and Education

# Research Trajectories

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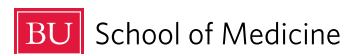
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Boston Medical Center is the primary teaching affiliate  
of the Boston University School of Medicine.

# Learning Objectives

Consider whether a research career is what he/she wants

- Pros and Cons
- Do you like to write?

Learn two examples of finding one's research niche or focus

- Serendipity/ Opportunity
- Passion
- Practicality
- Knowing your strengths
- Is there a mentor?

Think about the timing of one's research career

- When to write a grant?
- Going for a career development award – Is it necessary? Is it worthwhile?
- Independence – what does this mean? Is it possible/ desirable?

Coordinate a research career with family and other interests

# Is research the right track for you?

- Pros and Cons
- Do you like to write?

# Finding your niche

- Serendipity/ Opportunity
- Passion
- Practicality
- Knowing your strengths
- Is there a mentor?

# Focus

- Simplifies literature review for each paper
- Understand the gaps in the literature
- Fast recognition as an expert
- Multiple grants and papers with similar background section
- Good if focus overlaps disciplines
  - HIV+HCV+alcohol+drug use=multiple funding areas

# Career development

- When to write a grant?
- Going for a career development award – Is it necessary? Is it worthwhile?
- Independence – what does this mean? Is it possible/desireable?

# Where does family and life fit in?

# Examples of saying Yes and No

## Say Yes

- Several research projects at once
- Collaborate with peers, near and distant
- Peer-review submitted manuscripts with a mentor
- Attend journal club
- Conferences where you present your work

## Say No

- Anything that does not lead to original research papers or research funding
- Extra clinical work/teaching
- Review articles – unless it is work you are already going to do for a grant
- Book chapters
- Conferences where you do not present your work



# Managing your mentors

- They are busy - Get the most out of them when you have their attention
- Schedule meetings – be proactive and aggressive
- Be respectful
  - 1-2 weeks for paper/abstract/ poster
  - 3 weeks for letter of recommendation
  - 1 month for grant proposal
- Have an agenda when you meet
- Be responsive
- Be appreciative
- Nominate your mentor for a mentorship award