

**Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) Office of Faculty Development's (OFD)
Mentee Checklist for Researchers**

(Adapted from BCH OFD 2021-2022 Successful Mentoring for Junior Faculty Checklist)

The Mentee's Checklist for Researchers

Preparation

- Ask yourself – What are my goals? How can a mentor assist me in meeting these goals? What are my competency levels and skill sets?
- Introduce yourself by phone, brief letter or email. Invite a meeting and set forth the agenda. Be ready to ask for advice and listen thoughtfully.
- Update your résumé/CV and send a copy to your mentor in advance of your first meeting.
- Ask for and review a copy of your mentor's résumé/CV in advance of your first meeting. Look at some of your mentor's publications.
- Think about your Developmental Network (colleagues, juniors, mentees, family and friends) including your Community of Mentors (scholarly mentors, career advisors, educators, co-mentors, peer mentors, e-mentors) who you turn to regularly for career advice and support, both inside and outside your division/department/school. (An exercise to help you map and analyze your Developmental Network is included in Appendix A).

First and second meetings

- Discuss your short- and long-term professional goals and proposed project. Work together to develop steps toward these goals with a timeline.
- Consider the skill sets that require additional mentors: What skills do I need to learn or improve? Who can help me navigate the organizational culture? What do I want to change about my work style? List the people in your Community of Mentors and Developmental Network who can provide career advice, coaching, or support; review gaps. Are there other mentors or collaborators needed?
- Decide together on the frequency of meetings which can vary based on needs of individuals, but occurs as often as several times a week to once every month or two. Interactions may range from brief email to a phone "check-in" to lengthy follow up. Either member can initiate a meeting; do not wait for your mentor.
- Send a written agenda to your mentor at least a day before your meetings.

Some Topics for Discussion for Junior Faculty with a focus on Research

(Note there is no set order for addressing these topics).

Research

- Discuss proposed research project and how to develop aims and hypotheses.
- Do you need to add mentors with expertise in the specific research project you are working on to your Developmental Network?
- Write out a 2 page concept paper with brief background, aims and hypotheses, and analysis plan of your proposed research.
- Assess skills/resources needed for projects and timeline.
- Ask about funding opportunities and how to interact with project officers.
- Meet frequently to ensure progress in meeting original project goals, developing new projects, writing manuscripts or grants.

Promotion

- Discuss career trajectory and skills/deliverables needed to progress to next level. Familiarize yourself with the HMS Guidelines for Promotion in your specific Area of Excellence.

Balance and Negotiation

- Ask your primary mentor to identify key steps in his/her career path that seem valuable.
- Ask about HMS and BCH resources for family, child care, and work/life balance.
- Learn about successful negotiating styles and skills including resources and training provided by the HMS Ombuds Office.

Follow-up Meetings

- Set mutual expectations and responsibilities at the onset of the relationship and follow through.
- Investigate need for specific mentors and skills and how the plan can be actualized over time.
- Use the checklist to track progress. Keep an ongoing portfolio of activities and works in progress, and check your timeline.
- Suggest potential topics for future meetings, such as meeting goals, time management, work/life balance, negotiation, manuscript completion, etc.
- Continue to assess the skill sets that require additional mentors: What skills do I need to learn or improve? What do I want to change about my work style? What professional networks and online communities are important?
- Try to maintain relationship for at least one year. Reevaluate mentoring relationship as needed, but at least annually. Agree on confidentiality and no-fault termination.