The mission of the CRTEC Office is to decrease the burden of cancer and inequities associated with cancer by facilitating the training of a diverse cohort of cancer researchers and care providers across the training continuum.

We support roughly 1,300 active Duke Cancer Institute (DCI)-affiliated trainees from middle school students in the Durham community through junior faculty.

Current key offering:

Internal Grant Review – CRTEC coordinates a NIH-style mock study section 3 times per year (April, September, December) roughly 1.5 months ahead of the major NIH grant deadlines. Priority will be given to trainees and first time grant writers. Three expert reviewers provide feedback on the grant. Trainees are invited to serve as one of the reviewers as a means of learning about grant writing and NIH-style grant review.

Cancer Biology Journal Club – the CB Journal club is held 3-4 times per year with the goal of fostering learning about cutting edge science and promoting community among trainees. Refreshments are provided.

Education and Training Newsletter – we create and distribute a quarterly newsletter advertising upcoming events, funding opportunities, announcements, etc. We also highlight trainee accomplishments (e.g., awards, publications, grants) – please send us your stories!

DCI-Trainee Listserve – New! We recently created a listserve that includes active DCI-affiliated trainees (~1300). You can subscribe directly by going here, searching for “dci-trainees” and hitting subscribe. This is our best way of communicating relevant information to you (e.g., talks, workshops, funding announcements, jobs, etc.).

DCI Research Program Trainee Email Lists – New! We recently created a trainee email list for each of the 7 DCI Research Programs. Program Leaders will now be able to communicate directly with trainees within their program. CRTEC will update this list annually.
Trainee Tracking – we conduct an annual census of all DCI-affiliated trainees, as mandated by the National Cancer Institute. In 2023 we will implement software intended to streamline this process while allowing us to track more meaningful metrics beyond a basic headcount. Stay tuned for more information!

DCI Shared Resource Tours – CRTEC coordinates group tours of DCI shared resources to inform trainees about the myriad of services they can utilize to support their research.

Note, all trainees working with faculty affiliated with the DCI are considered DCI-trainee members. DCI trainee members are eligible to apply for DCI Annual Scientific Retreat Presentation Awards.

We are looking to expand our offerings! Please take this 2-minute survey to tell us what new services you are most interested in!

Featured Resources:

The Duke Office of Campus Research Development has several free toolkits to guide preparation of NIH grants for trainees (e.g., NIH F32).

Does your mentor have active NIH funding? Are you from a background underrepresented in science? You may be eligible to apply for an NIH Diversity Supplement. These grants have a relatively high success rate. Please consider applying!