

Expanding the Possibilities on Trainee Tracking at NIH

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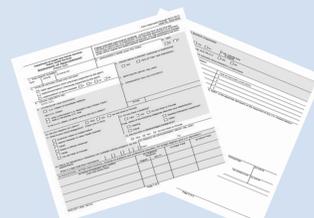
A Sampling of NIH Tracking Tools

NIH captures data about trainees during their training process using trainee appointment forms (form PHS2271). Personal information as well as education and employment data is collected in a trainee's Commons profile.

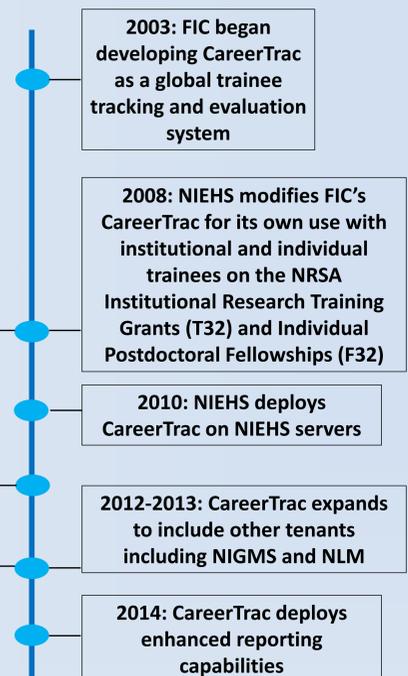
However (1) output and outcome information are not systematically captured by NIH data systems, despite the fact that institutional training grant programs are required to track trainees for 10 years after they complete the program (2) data from existing sources is limited or submitted in a structured format (i.e. in a PDF table), and thus is impossible to analyze in an efficient manner.

Table 12A. Postdoctoral Trainees Supported by T32 Training Grant Mechanisms: Applications and Non-Competing Continuation Progress Reports Only

Year	Applications	Non-Competing Continuation Progress Reports
2008	10	10
2009	10	10
2010	10	10
2011	10	10
2012	10	10
2013	10	10
2014	10	10
2015	10	10
2016	10	10
2017	10	10
2018	10	10
2019	10	10
2020	10	10
2021	10	10
2022	10	10
2023	10	10
2024	10	10
2025	10	10
2026	10	10
2027	10	10
2028	10	10
2029	10	10
2030	10	10



The Evolution of CareerTrac



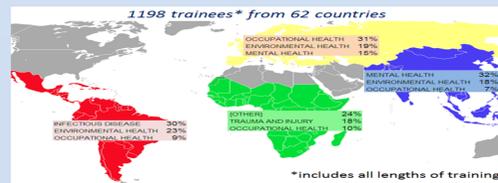
The Current CareerTrac Team
 Fogarty International Center
 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
 National Institute of General Medical Sciences
 National Library of Medicine
 Developers: Open Intelligence

Enhancing Decision Making with CareerTrac

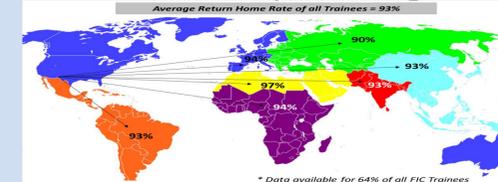
CareerTrac is designed to track and report short and long-term outputs, outcomes, and impacts of international and domestic trainees thereby facilitating informed decision-making by management about health research training programs.

CareerTrac answers an array of questions that were once difficult, if not impossible, to address.

Of the trainees in the Environmental program at Fogarty, what research areas were most popular by region



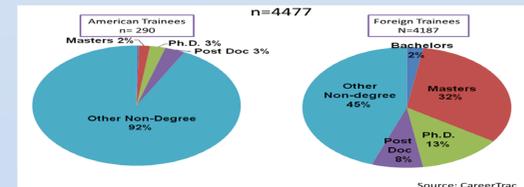
What percent of international trainees return to their home country after training?



How long does the average trainee in the ITREOH program take to complete training?



What degrees do the Fogarty trainees receive? Do they differ between the Americans and international students?



How much does it cost to train a trainee by research area between 2008-2012?



How many of the NCD alumni stay in research? If they are in research, is it in chronic disease?



Limitations of CareerTrac

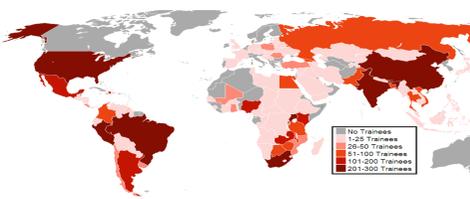
CareerTrac relies on Principal Investigators to enter data into the system and doing so is not a requirement. Given that, as well as the fact that for FIC the number of trainees by grant and by program vary, it is impossible to know if all trainees have been entered into the system for a specific cohort or year thus limiting FIC's ability to fully capture trends using the data.

Aside from the data pulled from IMPACII for the T32 trainees, all information is entered by the PI on behalf of the trainee. Given this, although the trainee has right of review, there is no assurance that the data in CareerTrac have been validated by the trainees themselves.

Capturing Capacity Building

The system facilitates FIC's understanding of the capacity building efforts abroad both at an individual and institutional level. The system allows users to identify specific trainees for international partnership opportunities, particularly a for U.S. PIs or program alumnus who desire collaboration with an individual who has expertise in a specific scientific area, international site or institution.

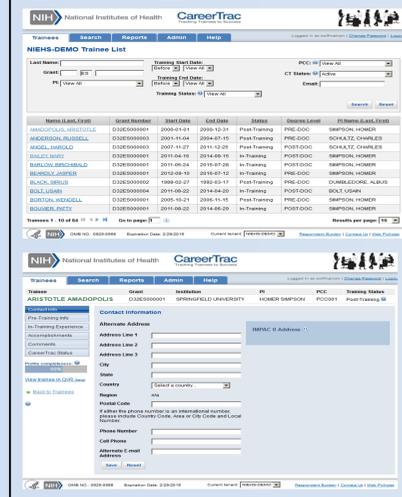
Where have we built capacity? Before CareerTrac there was no systemic way for FIC to capture the number of trainees taught in country by program. However, with CareerTrac, FIC can now track the number of trainees by categorical area, over time or by specific program. There is a canned report called "Country of Origin" that reports on this feature, thus allowing FIC staff to easily access this data in one-click.



An Inside Look into CareerTrac

CareerTrac collects information about a trainee before, during and after their NIH training experience. PIs have a full roster of all the trainees on all of their grants. Each trainee has an individual profile. The information in this profile is entered by the PI.

Custom searches as well as canned reports such as NRSA progress reports (5, 6, and 12) are available for users.



How CareerTrac Works

CareerTrac supports views for multiple ICs views but employs a single application and database. It provides a custom interface for each tenant (IC), but houses all information in the same integrated database.

The system tracks trainees with and without official training appointments. Trainee profiles can be created by pulling data from IMPACII based on X-Train appointment forms or manually entering data.

Progress/Renewal Report Features in CareerTrac

In 2011, CareerTrac began developing reports that allowed principal investigators who use the system to reproduce and export NRSA Tables 5, 6 and 12A and B in the appropriate format to submit for progress reports and program analysis. To date, the system maintains a dynamic query and reporting interface, including a robust reporting system and a series of standard one-click reports. Included in these reports are the tables needed by PIs for competitive renewals and progress reports. If data is accurate and complete in CareerTrac, Tables 5, 6 and 12 A and B can be reproduced and exported into Word via CareerTrac. Given the intricacy of instructions and redundancy of reproducing these tables annually, a one-click report in CareerTrac is an efficient and helpful tool for the PI.

The Added Value of CareerTrac

CareerTrac enables NIH ICs to analyze the long term outcomes associated with investment in capacity building and trainee development by tracking accomplishments both during and after the training experience. Specifically, the system collects and facilitates analysis of the career achievements of trainees using various data fields including accomplishments.

- There are 10 accomplishments listed in CareerTrac.
- Employment
 - Posters
 - New product/policy
 - Fellowships
 - New competitive funding
 - Leadership/career highlights
 - Students trained
 - Education/degrees
 - Honors/awards
 - Publications

A PI can enter an unlimited number of post-training accomplishments of a trainee from any of these designated categories.