Jason Q. Purnell, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor, Washington University in St. Louis
Former Trainee 2007–2009

"I received some of the best mentorship of my career under the leadership of Gary Morrow and his team at the University of Rochester. I give this training program my full support."

Lisa K. Sprod, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor, University of North Carolina – Wilmington
Former Trainee 2009–2012

"The cancer control training program at URMC provided me with the knowledge and skills necessary to secure my dream job. My mentors, but specifically Dr. Karen Mustian, were paramount in providing me with the invaluable experiences which set me apart from others applying for the same faculty positions. I was able to collaborate on the highest quality research studies, learn to mentor and lead by having the best mentors and leaders, and network with the most experienced researchers in the field of Cancer Control. This program set me up for a successful career. I will forever be grateful for my experiences at the University of Rochester."

Anita R. Peoples, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor, University of Utah
Former Trainee 2012–2014

"The NCI-funded T32 Cancer Control Clinical Training program is truly an outstanding transdisciplinary program. It has provided me the necessary knowledge and resources to conduct effective clinical/translational cancer control and survivorship research to improve the quality of life and prognosis of individuals with cancer. In particular, the program has allowed me to expand my skills in biomarker research, conducting observational clinical studies, secondary data analyses of large national datasets, and grant writing, all of which are essential for a successful academic career. As part of the training program, I also received a Masters of Public Health degree and had the opportunity to teach radiation oncology residents. Overall, the program has been extremely instrumental in helping me build a foundation of research to advance my academic research career."

Matt Asare, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., CHES
Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, Baylor University
Former Trainee 2015–2017

"The URMC T32 program is designed to prepare you for a career as an independent researcher. It helps you develop a clear research agenda in cancer control and prevention, build a track record of successful projects, and establish yourself as a principal investigator capable of leading your own research team. Our T32 program offers access to a network of experienced senior researchers and mentors, which can be invaluable for professional development. These connections can lead to collaborations, co-authorships, and guidance on navigating academic career challenges, such as securing tenure or balancing research with teaching responsibilities. Overall, the University of Rochester T32 program can serve as a catalyst for your growth as a researcher, equipping you with the necessary tools to make significant contributions to the field of cancer control and prevention and to achieve long-term success in your research career. Since completing the NCI-funded R25-Training program (now T32) at URMC, I have been awarded two (NIH/FIC R21 and NIH/NCI U01) implementation science grants for cervical cancer control and prevention projects in Ghana, West Africa."

Nikesha Gilmore, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Supportive Care in Cancer Division, University of Rochester
Former Trainee 2018–2021

"The T32 program has been a transformative experience in my career, offering far more than I could have imagined. From the outset, the mentorship I received was not only exceptional but also beautifully diverse, giving me access to a broad range of perspectives and expertise. This diverse support network didn't just guide me—it empowered me to pursue my research passions with creativity and confidence, knowing I had unwavering backing every step of the way.

What truly set the program apart was its alignment with my own goals and vision. The T32 offered me the space to explore my ideas and carve out a distinct career path, all while providing the leadership opportunities I needed to grow into the researcher I wanted to become. The chance to lead projects, make decisions, and be an active contributor in the field has given me a deep sense of fulfillment.

Beyond research, the program's commitment to balancing career with family life was invaluable. The T32 program recognized that a fulfilling career doesn't come at the expense of personal life, and this understanding allowed me to thrive in both areas. It nurtured not only my professional development but also supported me in finding harmony between work and family, which is rare and deeply appreciated.

The unwavering mentorship, leadership opportunities, and commitment to my personal growth have all played pivotal roles in shaping my career. I am forever grateful to the T32 program for helping me become the researcher and leader I am today."

Elizabeth Belcher, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Psychological Science, Hobart and William Smith
Former Trainee 2019–2021

"This program was instrumental to my transition from working with animal models during my Ph.D. to conducting human subjects research. The extensive training opportunities, resources, and networking connections made available to trainees in this program are essential to launching a clinical study, especially in the areas of supportive care and cancer control. This program demands a high level of achievement and dedication, but that challenge is an important part of learning how to excel in the research world. The mentorship I received and skills I gained have played a key role in my advancement into a tenure-track faculty position and my confidence as a PI."

Amber Kleckner, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Pain and Translational Symptom Science, University of Maryland Baltimore
Former Trainee 2019–2021

"I wholeheartedly support the University of Rochester T32 program. This exceptional program equips early-career researchers with the critical resources needed to launch an independent research career. The dedicated mentorship fosters both professional and personal growth. Ample resources are available for the development and execution of pilot studies. Regular meetings include clinicians, researchers, and patient advocates, which stimulate discussion of ideas across the translational research continuum to meet the pressing needs of the field. Additionally, access to large, valuable datasets allows for high-impact research and publications. The program also offers practical guidance on prioritizing the key steps necessary for securing grants or faculty positions after the post-doctoral phase. It's truly an invaluable asset for anyone looking to advance in academia."

Evelyn Arana, DrPH
Assistant Professor, Rutgers Cancer Institute
Former Trainee 2021–2023

"The cancer control T32 training program at URMC not only deepened my understanding of cancer survivorship research but also connected me with a network of dedicated professionals and researchers, enhancing my ability to contribute meaningfully to the field. Thanks to the exceptional training and mentoring I received, I was able to secure a tenure-track faculty position at an NCI-designated cancer center."