CureSearch Young Investigator (YI) program

Through our Young Investigator awards, we combat the loss of promising scientists from the field by providing significant financial support to investigators early in their research careers. These grants are limited to truly transformational science designed to deliver the next generation of cancer treatment to the clinic in three to five years.

...But... we could do more
Aim: To support early-stage investigators that receive YI awards in pediatric cancer drug development through a professional development and mentorship program.
Activities:

- Quarterly meetings to identify pain points in YI research and professional development.
- A yearly course in a topic of need as identified by the YIs.
- Opportunities to present to CureSearch constituents and staff/board.
- A yearly mentorship meeting with YIs and pediatric oncology champions in industry.
Resources needed for success:

• Volunteer engagement
• YI engagement

More tangible needs:

• Staff time: Approximately two hours per week (average)
• Expert course development: ~$10,000/year
• Travel and registration fees for annual CureSearch meetings
• Venue and hotel costs for the Young Investigator Mentorship Meeting in Drug Development: ~$15,000/year
YOUNG INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
RESOURCE NEEDS

Offsetting Cost

CureSearch identified a grant that would support this program, applied and acquired the funding.

Pros: This will not come out of CureSearch funds raised for research.

Cons: There is more oversight from the granting agency which requires reporting, metrics and financial reporting. Thus, necessitating more staff time.
SUCCESS METRICS

Metrics of Success

• Attendance
• YI Feedback via course surveys
• Number of relationships built with industry
• Number of partnerships developed
  • YI-YI
  • YI-industry
  • YI lab to industry
• Meeting goals of the original grant application
WHAT THE PROGRAM LOOKS LIKE (DURING COVID)