Developing a Good Idea

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Outline
• Describe 1st step in research project development
  – Where ideas come from
• Discuss F.I.N.E. criteria
• Use examples of UPMC Resident projects to illustrate points
  – Engage in Active discussion

Practice Site: Comprehensive Epilepsy Program
• Outpatient Epilepsy Clinic
  • Adult Population
  • Interdisciplinary Approach
  • Specialty-Trained Neurologists
    – Epileptologists
  • Certified Nurse Practitioner
  • Pharmacist (since 1994)
• Teaching
  – Pharmacy
  – Medicine
  – Nursing
• Research
  – Generating Ideas
  – Recruitment
• Service
  – Patients
  – Practitioners
  – Epilepsy Foundation
Stages of Project Development
Research Continuum

I. Idea
Sources:
- Clinical observation
- Reading the literature
- Another project
- Conversation w/ colleague

- Benefits of OSU
  - Patient care & clinical observations
  - Breadth & depth of campus

Ideas should meet F.I.N.E. criteria

- Feasible
- Interesting
- Novel
- Ethical

Feasible

- Adequate resources
  - number of patients/participants
  - expertise
- Affordable
- Timeline
- Scope
Interesting

- To you
  - invoke passion
- Pass the “so-what” test
- To the reviewers
  - funding agencies, journal reviewers
- What do peers and mentors think?
  - Working groups

Novel

- Confirms/refutes/extends previous findings
- Advance knowledge
- Not “me too”
- Innovation attractive to funding agencies

Ethical

- Would you enroll a family member in it?
- Will it pass IRB review?
  - IRB has Patient Safety at forefront
  - More to come on this later in Series
Examples of Projects:

• Sources for ideas to pursue include, but are not limited to:
  – Clinical Questions & Observations
  – Conversations

Harinstein, et al. Use of an Abnormal Laboratory Value-Drug Combination Alert to Detect Drug-Induced Thrombocytopenia in Critically Ill Patients

Questions for Group Discussion

• Can you imagine a scenario on how the project idea was conceived?
• What is the ultimate issue this project addresses?
• Is it Feasible/Interesting/Novel/Ethical?
• What are other ways to frame the issue?
• What other literature exists?
  – What does this study add to the literature?
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Some Final Thoughts . . .

• Never able to design the ultimate study/answer all questions – theme development
• Know all aspects/Anticipate issues
  – Hormone replacement therapy in postmenopausal women with epilepsy [inability to measure primary outcome]
  – Investigating link between antiepileptic drugs & suicide [in over my head]
  – Designed a study to evaluate a novel approach to treating hepatic encephalopathy [colleague asked “Does this drug cross the blood-brain barrier?”]
• Iterative process – feedback from multiple sources/colleagues
  – Peer-review can be daunting, but clearly worth it

Questions and/or Comments?

Additional Insight or Wisdom to share?