

Franklin Epstein Society Receives the 2023 Program Award for a Culture of Excellence in Mentoring (PACEM)

We are excited to announce that the **Franklin Epstein Society** is a recipient of the **2023 Program Award for a Culture of Excellence in Mentoring (PACEM)** at **Harvard Medical School**. The Program Award for a Culture of Excellence in Mentoring was established to recognize departments, divisions, offices, or programs for their efforts to foster innovation and sustainability in mentoring while building a culture of excellence in mentoring. Presented by the HMS Office for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Partnership (DICP), the PACEM Award provides an opportunity to learn from successful innovative mentoring programs and allow for others in the Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine community to learn from successful models.

The Epstein Society, under the leadership of **Steven Freedman, MD, PhD**, was created within the Department of Medicine and expanded across BIDMC with the overarching goal to provide a longitudinal support program and pipeline that integrates across the continuum from our Internal Medicine Physician Scientist Track Residency Program, to Fellowship, to the Junior Faculty level. The goal is to bring together individuals interested in a career in research through a supportive and interactive environment that cultivates the support needed to maximize success as a researcher.

The elements of this program consist of monthly webinars, with options to attend in person or virtually, on topics ranging from grant writing strategies, obtaining alternative sources of grant funding, patenting, pharma/biotech collaborations, technology innovations, and career advancement.

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In addition, Dr. Freedman provides individualized NIH K grant reviews and input. The goal is to help advanced fellows and junior faculty successfully compete for their first NIH K or equivalent award. Successful NIH K funding is then followed with enrollment in Dr. Freedman's Harvard Catalyst Grant Review and Support Program (GRASP), which has a 74% NIH R01 success rate with 28% of individuals obtaining an R01 on the first attempt.

Mentorship is a core value of the Department of Medicine and Program Director Steven Freedman (pictured) truly embodies the commitment to our mentorship mission. In addition to serving as Director of the Pancreas Center in the Division of Gastroenterology and Chief of the Division of Translational Research, Steve leads the Franklin Epstein Society, the GRASP program, and the Physician Scientist Track within the Internal Medicine Residency. His work strengthens our entire Department and we are very grateful for his deep expertise and continuous leadership. The Frank Epstein Society also benefits from the organization of Program Coordinator Kelly Anastasio and we thank her for all she does.

Past recipients of the PACEM award within the Department of Medicine have included the Smith Center for Outcomes Research in Cardiology and the Division of General Medicine Research Program. We are delighted to see the Franklin Epstein Society join the ranks of these great programs and please join us in congratulating them on this well-deserved recognition!