A library-based approach to translational informatics education

Kristi L. Holmes
Ellen Dubinsky
Lili Wang
ABSTRACT
Advancements in translational medicine have prompted a critical need for educational approaches which support information dissemination and facilitate a fluid exchange of data in a clinical research environment. Medical libraries provide information resources and technology in support of educational, research, and patient care objectives and are therefore particularly well-positioned to offer instructional resources which will enhance the flow of information.

INTRODUCTION
Bernard Becker Medical Library at Washington University School of Medicine has established itself as a biomedical informatics training facility(1). Becker Library currently has two bioinformatics resource specialists on staff: a medical doctor with a master’s degree in bioinformatics and a research scientist with a PhD in biochemistry. These bioinformatics resource specialists currently provide support through training opportunities and consultation services. The resource specialists offer workshop-style courses for a wide variety of biomedical topics. Consultation services for specific research questions and approaches are also available and widely used. These consultations cover diverse topics and offer the bioinformatics resource support staff at Becker Library an important link to research efforts on campus.

The Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA's) offer an exceptional opportunity for awarded institutions to transform clinical and translational research by facilitating discovery and rapid clinical implementation. The importance of this effort and its effect on modern medicine underscores the need for effective instructional resources for participants. The bioinformatics resource specialists at Becker Medical Library will assist in the development and implementation of an extensive range of training resources in a variety of topics. New courses will be developed which reflect themes ranging from general topics to more specific topics which focus on specialized software analysis tools and databases.

CONCLUSIONS
Library-based bioinformatics programs offer a novel approach to translational informatics education. The bioinformatics resource specialists have training in biomedical research approaches as well as access to information resources which enhance the instructional process. They are able to effectively promote opportunities in the basic science research environment and serve an important role in the support of the educational and research goals of translational science research centers.

FUTURE PLANS
A number of goals have been set for the upcoming months:

- Function Express and caTissue Suite
- Comprehensive special topics course
- Online instructional resources developed and functional
- Research FAQ Wiki
- Complete course offerings in web-based just-in-time format
- DBHS course development and delivery
- User group establishment and support

REFERENCE