

ACADEMIC DERMATOLOGY RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

**Boston University Department of Dermatology
2014-2015 Application Cycle**

Rhoda M. Alani, MD
Herbert Mescon Endowed Professor and Chair
Dermatologist-in-Chief
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston Medical Center

New Training Program in Dermatology for Residents Interested in Academic Careers

- Over the past 2 decades we have seen a steady decline in dermatology residents interested in academic career tracks
- During this same time period there has been a tremendous surge in the number of applicants to dermatology residencies with a highly competitive applicant pool
- Dermatology needs to attract and retain the best possible faculty in order to ensure the future success of our specialty

New Training Program in Dermatology for Residents Interested in Academic Careers

- Residency training programs generally receive over 500 applications each year for their limited number of training positions
- With such a large pool of applicants who almost universally “plan for a career in academic dermatology” when asked about career plans during interviews, how can we identify those applicants that are truly committed to the academic path?
- We have a real opportunity to impact our specialty and change the “status quo”

New Training Program in Dermatology for Residents Interested in Academic Careers

- In order to attract and retain the best possible faculty in academia, we should develop training programs specifically catered to academic career tracks
- Preparation for an academic career should start from the beginning of residency training and continue throughout an early faculty appointment
- Critical components of a successful academic dermatology career should be developed throughout the training period including: mentorship, finding a “niche”, organizing your research program, finding funding for your work, strategies for getting your work published in outstanding journals, developing presentation skills, etc.

The New Boston University Dermatology Residency Training Program

- Starting July 2016 our training program will be converted to a six-year program for all 5 residency training positions
- Years 1-3 will be comprised of the traditional ACGME-accredited training program with ABD board eligibility following successful completion with additional components specifically geared to academic career development
- Years 4-6 will be comprised of a junior faculty position at BU Dermatology with clinical activities directed to serving our BU/BMC community and an academic track targeting the faculty members "niche" area of interest

FAQs

- Will a trainee be allowed to pursue fellowship training following their residency? How will this be handled in the context of their 6-year commitment?
- What if there are not enough faculty positions open to bring all the trainees on board? What if there is insufficient funding for these new faculty?
- What if someone needs to relocate to a new city following their ACGME-approved training?