Conceptualizing Your Research Career

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Conceptualizing your research trajectory to guide strategic decisions

• Career stage
• Research trajectory
• Areas of research focus
McBride’s Career Stages

- Preparation
- Independent Contributions
- Develop the Home Setting
- Develop the Health Care and the Profession
- Gadfly Period
Conceptualizing Your Research Trajectory

Goal: To promote mental health in children with epilepsy by reducing behavior problems

- Identify factors that predict behavior problems in children with epilepsy
- Identify intervention strategies to modify factors
- Develop & test interventions for families
- Translate programs to the Epilepsy Affiliates

This was my planned trajectory for type of studies.
My Areas of Focus for Career Decisions

**Family**
- Parent coping, attitudes, child rearing behaviors, affect, stigma, anxiety, and information needs
- Child attitudes, coping, information needs

**Epilepsy**
- Severity, syndrome, seizure type and frequency

**Neurological**
- Neuropsychological functioning, brain structure (MRI) and function (EEG)

**School**
- Academic achievement
Accepting other faculty roles. Seek:

- Teaching assignments that align with your research interests
- Service activities related to your current and future research goals
- Opportunities to develop research interests with experts at sister institutions
- Learning opportunities in service activities such as IRB and Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA)
Keep Your Research Goals in Mind When…

- Choosing professional organizations to join
  - Nursing research organizations
  - Disease-related societies
  - Voluntary organizations
Keep Your Research Goals in Mind When…

Making decisions related to clinical activities.

• Conduct your faculty practice in the area of your research program
• Do guest lectures related to clinical practice in your research area
• Supervise students in the clinical setting in your research area
• Work with clinical nurses and student dissertation research in your area of research
In Summary

• There are important tasks to accomplish at every stage of your career

• Knowing where you want to arrive helps to keep you focused on advancing your career

• Having a planned research career trajectory helps you make strategic decisions when seeking teaching, service, and clinical activities