

Core Mentors

Mentor	Area of expertise
Edouard Azzam, PhD – Professor, Department of Radiology	Dr. Azzam’s research interests are ionizing radiation-induced non-targeted effects (bystander effects genomic instability), ionizing radiation-induced adaptive responses, and the role of intercellular communication and oxidative metabolism in expression and propagation of the effects of low and high dose ionizing radiation.
Lisa Gittens-Williams, MD – Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health	Dr. Gittens-Williams research interests include high risk pregnancy, multiple gestations, maternal health disparities/health equity, minority and immigrant health, diabetes complicating pregnancy, hypertension and preeclampsia, maternal morbidity, patient safety and quality improvement, obesity, and substance abuse complicating pregnancy.
Debra Heller, MD – Professor, Department of Pathology, Immunology & Laboratory Medicine	Dr. Heller is interested in issues relating to pediatric and perinatal pathology (fetal and placental pathology) and gynecologic pathology.
Aziz Merchant, MD – Associate Professor, Department of Surgery	Dr. Merchant’s clinical expertise and areas of interest include minimally invasive surgery and robotic surgery, advanced laparoscopy, heartburn/reflux surgery, swallowing difficulties, all types of hernias, emergency general surgery, general surgery, surgical simulation and education, and health disparities.
Anne Mosenthal, MD – Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery	Dr. Mosenthal’s clinical and research interests are focused on palliative care and quality of life outcomes in trauma and critical care
Pranela Rameshwar, PhD – Professor, Department of Medicine	Dr. Rameshwar’s interests focus on understanding the safe translation of adult stem cells to patients, including restoring the old hematopoietic system, targeting bone marrow-derived breast cancer cells and using stem cells to deliver new treatments for glioblastoma.
Noa'a Shimoni, MD, MPH - Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine	Dr. Shimoni directs Student Health Services at the Rutgers Health Sciences campus at Newark and provides primary care to RBHS students. Her research centers on family planning and long acting reversible contraception.
Michael Sirkin, MD – Professor, Department of Orthopaedics	Dr. Sirkin has a special interest in bone infections, Pilon fractures, most acute fractures, and Biomechanics.
Glenn Fennelly, MD - Professor, Department of Pediatrics	Dr. Fennelly is a pediatric infectious disease expert with research interests in developing vaccines against HIV and tuberculosis, improving prevention and treatment of HIV in children, countering vaccine hesitancy, and improving practice performance.
Lewis Nelson, MD – Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine	Dr. Nelson’s current research interests include preventing and managing the consequences of opioid use, multimodal pain management strategies, medication-assisted therapy in the ED, medical toxicology, and medication safety.
Ping-Hsin Chen, PhD - Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine	Dr. Chen has extensive experience in conducting domestic violence training, intervention programs, research in health care settings, large-scale survey research, cohort studies, randomized trials, and chart review studies.
Vivian Bellofatto, MD – Professor, Department of Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Molecular Genetics	Dr. Bellofatto’s research interests are Trypanosomes, gene expression, Infectious Disease, RNA binding proteins, RNA polymerase II, and mRNA.
Beth Pletcher, MD – Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics	Dr. Pletcher’s areas of interest are neurofibromatosis, autism spectrum disorder, bioethics, health disparities, intersex conditions, medical education, pediatric workforce, and quality improvement, and most recently she has fostered a focused interest in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and how these impact future adult health outcomes and parenting.
Jayne Donovan, MD - Associate Professor, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Dr. Donovan’s clinical and research interests are focused on caring for individuals with spinal cord injuries and other neurologic disabilities with a goal of improving quality of life.