The United States faces a multipronged workforce challenge in the life science area. Novel skillsets needed are rapidly changing and training programs struggle to keep pace with this evolving need. A mismatch of supply and demand also presents significant risks both in a potential oversupply of scientists in some areas of research concurrently with a gap and increasing demand for translationally trained investigators. This dichotomy occurs in parallel with financial challenges to support research and education faced by academic medical centers. To what extent are institutions adapting to this more dynamic situation? Capitalizing on the UC Davis NIH-funded Clinical and Translational Science Center, which is anchored in the UC Davis Health enterprise as a foundation, new training mechanisms have been initiated with a focus on use of large data sets, informatics tools, interdisciplinary research focus areas and entrepreneurship training. The UC Davis goal is to produce a cadre of translationally focused junior faculty with skills to improve health care delivery and population health. Activities include internal and external internship programs, expanded partnerships with outside organizations (private and public), and new curricular offerings intended to enrich and complement our current innovative approaches. Experiences such as these inform future training needs as well as provide more personalized avenues to training, which will shape broader policy approaches to workforce development.

Dr. Berglund served as the Director of the UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center from its inception in 2006 until 2017 and served as PI for several NIH R01 grants. He has extensive experience with both basic and clinical research, having published more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and reviews. Many of these publications result from mechanistic, patient-oriented studies. He served as one of three PIs for the UC Davis FUTURE program, funded by a NIH Director’s BEST award to develop novel career pathways for graduate students. As the CTSC Director, he actively promoted an extensive collaborative framework and led the creation of the CTSC as a major asset and resource to develop scientific and training partnerships across UC Davis. As the interim Dean for the School of Medicine, he managed the School of Medicine academic programs and its operations, faculty and staff with responsibility for space assignments, matching and bridging funds, and represented the School of Medicine at the institutional and national level.

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