



FasterCures LeadersLink Mentors and Experts Responsibilities

BACKGROUND

The [FasterCures LeadersLink](#) program builds on the Milken Institute's history of developing emerging leaders by providing networking, training, and mentorship to a select group of nonprofit R&D innovators. LeadersLink is aimed at supporting the personal development of a new generation of nonprofit leaders poised to bring systemic change to the biomedical ecosystem.

MENTORS

An important component of LeadersLink is its emphasis on mentorship. Mentors will help participants grow and develop as leaders through personal and professional advising. Mentors will be screened for areas of expertise, willingness to fulfill program responsibilities, and availability to participate in program activities. Mentors will be matched to applicants based on aligned interest and priority/expertise areas.

Mentor Responsibilities and Expectations

- Provide guidance, feedback, and support related to mentee's capstone projects and stated professional goals and needs, including help building relevant relationships.
- Meet with mentees in person or virtually at least quarterly (preferably monthly).
- Engage quarterly with fellow cohort participants and mentors through topic-focused and open forum sessions.
- Be available to attend program activities and in-person events associated with this program, including, most importantly **the Milken Institute Future of Health Summit** (tentatively planned for the first week of December 2024 in Washington, DC).
- Attend other events (as availability permits) where LeadersLink participants may be in attendance, such as the **Milken Institute Global Conference** (May 5–8, 2024, in Los Angeles).

As distinct from experts, mentors should be able to support participants' growth and development more broadly. If needed, mentors can request support for travel costs to attend the in-person program-related convenings, but there is no guarantee FasterCures can cover those expenses.

EXPERTS

In addition, FasterCures will recruit a pool of individuals with expertise in relevant areas who will provide episodic advice and counsel to LeadersLink participants as they work on their capstone projects. These experts will not be directly paired with a single mentee.

The focus for the 2024–2025 cohort is **engaging diverse patients across the spectrum of R&D**. Participants will propose a capstone project to advance their efforts in this area during the two years of their program.

Relevant expertise in the area of engaging diverse patients might include:*

- building relationships with patient communities, specifically populations that have either not been engaged and/or are underrepresented in research;
- working and collaborating with community organizations and advocacy groups;
- developing communications tools to reach more diverse patient populations;
- working with industry partners and/or research partners to develop initiatives to increase engagement with populations that have either not been engaged and/or are underrepresented in research;
- engaging global patient populations;
- collecting and sharing patient stories;
- conducting initiatives to understand burden of disease on various populations and communities;
- engaging diverse patient populations in resource development; and
- building and maintaining trust with patient communities.

**Note: Experience in all listed areas is not required to be an expert; even experience in just one of the listed areas is sufficient to volunteer as an expert!*

Expert Responsibilities and Expectations

- Provide guidance, feedback, and support related to mentee's stated professional goals and capstone projects in the area of engaging diverse patients across the spectrum of R&D.
- Be willing and able to commit up to 10 hours of time per year pro bono to meet in person or virtually with any of the LeadersLink participants seeking assistance or possibly to conduct webinars or present at program meetings in your area of expertise for the group.
- Be available, if possible, to attend the **Milken Institute Future of Health Summit** (tentatively planned for the first week of December 2024, in Washington, DC).