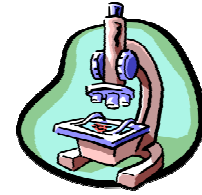




**The George
Washington
University**

Course Director: Dr. Anne Chiaramello



IBS Graduate Program Research Rotations: BMSC 215

How many?

Three 12 weeklong rotations are carried out in the fall, spring and summer semesters. The student is expected to be in the lab 30 hrs/week. A fourth rotation will be granted only in the event that the student did not find a suitable mentor. However, it is highly discouraged, as it is typically in the student's best interest to initiate his/her Dissertation research to minimize the period that can be devoted this. After completing the rotations (July 1st), the student selects a Dissertation advisor.

Goals of Research Rotation:

Research rotations are critical for students in choosing their dissertation lab. In addition, rotations broaden a student research experience and familiarize students with on going research projects. Rotations are set up by discussion of the student with the Director of lab rotations (Dr. Anne Chiaramello, phone # 202-994-2173, email: anaaec@gwumc.edu) and with the faculty member of interest.

Who are the mentors?

All regular faculty members of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences may serve as laboratory rotation mentors during the three required semesters of BMSC 215. Each mentor must be a member of IBS prior to the start of the rotation. Only one rotation student per IBS member per semester is allowed. The mentor will guide the student during the rotation by having frequent meetings to discuss the research project both conceptually and experimentally.

Grade:

It is a pass/fail course. At the end of each rotation, all first year students will give a brief power point presentation (maximum 5 slides), which includes a brief introduction and main goal of the research project, methods, results, discussion and major conclusions. Each presentation will be followed by a short question session. Finally, students are required to submit a lab report (double-spaced 8 page-long maximum), according to the PNAS guidelines. The mentor will guide the writing and revision of the student's report. The research report will be composed of: 1) a short introduction to give a brief background on the system studied, what is known in the field, and outline the major objective of the study. 2) Materials & Methods: to describe the different methods used in the study by following the guidelines of a PNAS manuscript. 3) Results & Discussion: to describe the results obtained during the study and discuss them in the context of the field of interest. 4) References. 5) Figures & Tables: each figure or table should include a title and a complete legend (see PNAS guidelines).

Evaluation Forms:

At the end of each rotation the student evaluates the mentor, his/her availability, readiness to discuss and communicate, and guidance. In addition, of assigning a pas/fail grade, the mentor will evaluate the student on his/her dependability and commitment, knowledge, laboratory skills, problem solving and thought process, and research ability.