

## Laboratory Rotations, A Guide for Mentors

The purposes of laboratory rotations are several-fold, including:

- to allow both the faculty and the student to determine if their lab is appropriate for the student to perform their dissertation research.
- to learn new techniques.
- to learn different approaches to research.
- to guide the student in writing a research report.

All regular faculty members of the IBS entities may serve as laboratory rotation mentors for IBS fellowship students 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. If a rotation mentor knows that they will not be available as a dissertation mentor, they should inform the student of this before the rotation begins.

Each rotation is about 11 week long, and the student is expected to dedicate 30 hours per week in the laboratory. The rotation schedule for the academic year 2009-10 is available on the IBS website (<http://www.gwumc.edu/ibs/forms.html>), as well as the current evaluation forms and other guidelines.

The mentor should guide the student during the rotation by having frequent meetings to discuss the research project, both conceptually and experimentally. The student should develop at least a basic understanding of the concepts behind their experiments, and acquire the technical skills to carry out experiments. In addition, the mentor should guide the writing and revision of the student's research report, which is due at the end of the semester. Some students will not get hard data during their laboratory rotation, but they still need to write a report detailing the experiments, outcome and future experiments. It is expected that the mentor will require at least one re-write of the research report before it is handed in to the BMSC 215 course director.

At the end of the rotation, the mentor and the student must complete separate evaluation forms, to be turned in to the BMSC 215 Course Director. A grade will not be submitted until both evaluations forms are filled out and submitted to the Course Director (Dr. Anne Chiaramello, Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Biology, Ross Hall 425, phone #: (202) 994-2173, email: [anaaec@gwumc.edu](mailto:anaaec@gwumc.edu)).

*Approved by IBS Executive Committee, July 2003  
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