

## **LABORATORY ROTATIONS AND TEACHING REQUIREMENTS/OPPORTUNITIES DEPARTMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

### **Which students do laboratory rotations?**

All new students who have assistantships from the University or the Department of Infectious Diseases are required to do rotations before choosing a mentor.

### **How do students choose rotation labs?**

All new students are given folders with general information about the department and faculty research profiles. Faculty that submitted research summaries should be prepared to accept students for rotations (meaning, they must have the space available in their labs and funds for stipend after the assistantship is over).

Students doing rotations should set up appointments with the faculty that best fit their research interests to discuss projects and specifics. These one-on-one meetings should provide the students with more details about specific projects.

Students will be asked to submit names of the faculty chosen for rotations by August 31 to the graduate coordinator by email. *Doctoral students must submit 4 names in order of preference. Master's students must submit three names in order of preference.*

In case of conflict, the graduate committee may make decisions regarding rotations.

### **How are rotations scheduled?**

Rotations are scheduled for 7 weeks in each lab starting in September.

*Faculty will send a message to the graduate coordinator after each rotation indicating the willingness or reluctance to serve as major professor for the rotating student.*

Students will submit their preferred labs (1, 2, and 3) to the graduate coordinator the week following their last rotation.

In case of conflict (all students wanting to join the same lab, all faculty wanting the same student, etc) the graduate coordinator will try to work with all parties involved to solve the problem and get the best possible outcome.

Students will be able to start in their new labs as soon as they are contacted by the graduate coordinator.

### **Who mentors students during their rotations?**

A temporary faculty mentor will be responsible to meet with new students doing rotations on a weekly basis to monitor progress, problems and provide additional support. In order to minimize the possibility of conflict of interest, the mentor will not be one of the professors participating in the student's rotations. These meetings will be informal and

are meant to provide support to new students who do not have a major professor and may have academic, personal or research/rotation problems.

### **What are the responsibilities of rotating students?**

Students on rotations are expected to spend as much time as possible in the mentoring lab and get immersed into the research culture of the environment. The principal investigator of the lab has the last word about admission of a student into their program. In order to make that decision, the professor will assess the student's performance during the rotation and will have access to the student's application file. Students are guests in the hosting labs and their behavior should reflect this relationship.

### **What are the responsibilities of hosting faculty?**

Faculty will try to showcase the various projects that go on in the lab and should discuss specific areas of interest that the student will work on if he/she joins the lab. The purpose of the rotation is to make an informed decision when matching new students with specific faculty. Mentoring styles vary and this will be reflected in the rotation experience. Hosting faculty must communicate any problems the rotating students may have to the graduate coordinator.

### **Are there teaching responsibilities for students on assistantships?**

All students on Departmental assistantships are required to assist in the teaching (TA) of IDIS classes. The TA load required will be 3 credit hours of TA for each semester that the student is on an assistantship. Students on Graduate School assistantships are exempt of this responsibility. Teaching assignments will take place either on the second semester in the program or at a later date (even if the student is at that point funded by his/her major professor). This is done to minimize additional responsibilities of the new students on their first semester in the program.

### **Are there teaching opportunities for students who are not on Departmental assistantships?**

Students who are not required, but wish to have teaching experience, may find teaching opportunities in the Department of Infectious Diseases or in departments with large undergraduate teaching components, such as Microbiology or Cellular Biology.