Laboratory Rotation and Academic Advisory Committee

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I. Purpose of Rotations

Find a Scientific Home

A Ph. D is a training period—you are here to learn how to do research.

Each of you have been assigned an advisor

We are here to help you!

(Firestein, Fondell, Nanda, Nickels, Roth)
II. Major Points of the Rotation Process

1. Have to do 3 rotations - Could also do a 4th (not general)

2. Rotations are for 8-10 weeks each, depending on cycle.

3. First rotation starts September 21st
   This gives you plenty of time to think about what lab you
   you are interested in and to talk to the faculty different faculty

4. Don’t worry about the 2nd and 3rd rotations yet.

5. Take advantage of the rotations.
   Rotations give you an opportunity to experience different areas
   of research.
   Keep an open mind and try areas you don’t know much about
III. Selecting a Lab

There are ~37 faculty in the Molecular BioSciences Program that are accepting students this year.

The list provided to you is for:

Funding available

Funding pending or available for later rotations:
- check back with them

* faculty can take 5 rotation students a year but popular labs may only choose 1/5 students
How do you select among the diverse faculty?


- Poster Display
  
  Good opportunity to see the different scientific disciplines and the research carried out

  Talk to the faculty and students (DON’T BE SHY)

  Remember, the labs that are presenting are probably the most serious about taking students.
III. Selecting a Lab

- Make appointments with the faculty to discuss their research. Remember to ask them if they can support you!

- Talk to other students in the lab to get their impression. But keep in mind that sometimes what one student thinks is great for him/her might not be the same for you (and vice versa).
IV. Signing up for rotations

1. You must have an approval from both the faculty and your advisor. You should have it signed by the faculty first. Then go to your first year advisor’s office for signature. Any student advisor can sign for your advisor if they are not available, but you must meet with them at a later date. You will have to meet your advisor in their office to sign for 2nd and 3rd rotation.

2. Form for first rotation is due by Friday September 18 -hand in to Perry Dominguez-GSBS office

3. Feel free to go talk to your advisor anytime or can go see Dr. Roth.
V. What is expected during the rotation

- 8-10 weeks is not a long time so realistically we do not expect you to accomplish very much during this time

- The main purpose of the rotation is for you to evaluate the lab and the lab to evaluate you. It is a mutual trial period.
  Two reports: one research summary (student) and faculty evaluation

- Your courses should be your most important priority because you need to maintain a B average to stay in the program.

  Therefore you need to strike a balance to impress the faculty but not compromise your course needs.

  Rotations are a time to IMPRESS and BUILD BRIDGES.

  Contact your advisor if this becomes a difficulty.
VI. Committing to a lab

Finally, after three (or four) rotations you have to make a tough decision - What lab is a good match between the PI and you?

After each rotation, have an informal discussion about your potential to join the lab, but do not negotiate a commitment until the third rotation is completed.

Again, make sure they can support you!
VII. Seminar/Essential Skills I course

First-year student advisors will be participating in an informal meeting on **September 9, 2015 at 3:30 PM** in the Waksman Courtyard to further discuss the expectations for graduate school and rotations.

Article in ASBMB written by a graduate student

“How to find the right lab rotation”

http://www.asbmb.org/asbmbtoday/asbmbtoday_article.aspx?id=48369