

QCB Trainer's meeting

October 24, 2022, 1pm

Attending: Charles Dann, Clay Fuqua, J. P. Gerdt, David Giedroc, Heather Hundley, Stephen Jacobson, Jared Lewis, Ken Mackie, Tuli Mukhopadhyay, Sid Shaw, Mike Van Nieuwenhze, Yan Yu (12 of 35 trainers in attendance)

Agenda

- 1) Update on fellowships and awards, May 2022 competition (see attached) – David presented:
 - a. Applicant Summary Statistics (2018 – 2022)
 - i. 2022 was our weakest pool of applicants (based largely on GPA, perceived quality of the written project description).
 - ii. 2022 had the largest number of URM (racial diversity only) applicants (4), for 7 total all five years.
 - iii. Over the past 5 years, Chemistry comprised 53% of the applicants, with the next highest Biochemistry (27%).
 - iv. Averaged 12 applicants a year.
 - b. Awards made (2018 – 2022)
 - i. Overall success rate is 38%, with Biology success rate 50%, Chemistry success rate is 43%, and Biochemistry 25% (number of awards/number of applicants). URM success rate is 43%.
 - c. Attrition: seems ok, but clearly higher than the first five-year cycle
 - i. 3 (or 4) have given up fellowships.
 1. 2 opting for a Masters
 2. 1 due to funding/financial issues.
 3. 1 temporarily.
 4. 13% or 18% depending on how you count.
- 2) The importance of a strong applicant pool for the May 2023 (year 5 [10]) competition (encourage both 2nd and 3rd year students to apply) –
 - a. We will need at least 15 applications to ensure we award remaining slots across all funding sources prior to the competing renewal.
 - b. This may be challenging since Chemistry's rising 2nd year class is unusually small. 22 students, half of whom are international students and are thus not eligible for QCB funding. A discussion ensued for opening up College funding to international students, which can be done. However, we currently make no distinction program-wide regarding source of funding; maintaining the same eligibility criteria allows us to claim that we have sufficient numbers of domestic students to fill all slots (this we can argue for more NIH-funded slots).
 - c. A QCB open house was suggested for January 2023 to inform prospective candidates about the program and allow them to meet cohort members. *We will do this.*
- 3) Review and recap of programmatic changes and updates: First annual QCB trainee retreat, internships, plans for new year
 - a. Retreat

- i. The inaugural QCB Program retreat was a success. Ambassadors Jesse Gudorf and Abigail Garrett did the majority of the planning and did a phenomenal job in both planning and execution.
 - ii. [Itinerary](#) of the event can be found on QCB TP events page.
 - iii. Due to small size of the venue, only \approx 25 students from 23 groups (about 1 per group) were involved. 3 faculty members attended (invitation-only to members of the SC, which numbers 6)
 - iv. There was virtual participation (over zoom) that also went off without a hitch.
 - v. Chemistry 100% funded the event. Funding from other departments and programs will be required to fully fund the 2023 Retreat. More information will follow.
 - vi. We are soliciting thoughts and ideas on ways to include more students and faculty participants and will share these with student ambassadors for discussion.
 - vii. There were 23 poster [presentations](#).
- b. Internship
 - i. College is providing funds for travel and housing in the form of \$25,000 over three years.
 - ii. C683 has been created for this opportunity.
 - 1. Variable credit, with one (1) credit, roughly equiv to 4 weeks.
 - iii. 2 internships during Summer 2022
 - 1. Brigham Pope at the University of Toronto, checking out a potential postdoc.
 - 2. Ria Kidner at the IU School of Medicine, made a series of compounds in Richardson lab for biological testing
 - iv. We are looking to create a palate of potential internship opportunities. Please provide Mike or David with contact information of anyone you know that might be interested in hosting a trainee for an all-expenses paid internship. Possibilities include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Publishing
 - 2. Law Firm / Patent work
 - 3. Industrial – Corteva was mentioned.
 - 4. National Lab
 - v. We continue to evaluate the length and timing of our formal internships. There was discussion of tapping into existing internship programs at companies. We considered this for summer 2022, when Mike spoke with Lilly. However, their summer internships are usually focused on undergraduates, and their graduate opportunities are usually during the academic year and are four months long. Additional discussion is needed.
 - vi. How is the internship evaluated (assign a grade for C683)?
 - 1. Student must give a presentation at the retreat.
 - 2. Student must provide a report on the internship.
 - vii. How do we improve the experience?
- c. Student Sponsored Seminars: First one for the 2022-23 AY (Marcey Waters, UNC) was a great success. Another event is planned for the Spring 2023 .
- d. Watanabe Symposium discussion- to discuss with trainees
 - i. Do we want to bring in students from other Universities/Colleges and make this a more regional event? Chemistry's Analytical (Turkey Run) and Inorganic

(rotate annually between campuses) groups do this to encourage participation between IU, Purdue, Illinois and Notre Dame.

- ii. Purdue's Hitchhiker's meeting was mentioned- perhaps a home and home could be set up.
- 4) Competing renewal May 2023 plans: You will be asked to confirm trainer status
 - a. You will receive an email asking you to confirm your willingness to maintain trainer status for the next five-year cycle.
 - b. With the renewal due in late May, Maria and Kerry will be contacting you for information associated with the required tables and for Biosketches and Other Support. We hope to start this in November after the RPPR is submitted.
 - 5) Citing support by the training program (T32 GM131994) is essential! Also, work to move stalled publications that cite T32 support to compliance. This will make our RPPR go much more smoothly.
 - 6) Other business
 - a. Current stipends discussion:
 - i. QCB: \$27,500
 - ii. Chemistry: \$27,425
 - iii. CMCB: \$28,350
 - iv. Biochem & Biology: \$27,500
 - v. Neuro: variable
 - vi. NIH 2022 predoctoral (T32): \$26,352
 - vii. **Confirmed that fees are not covered for Fellowships which will run ≈\$2000 in round numbers.** Thus, the QCB fellowship is now worth less than appointments as AI or RA in all other feeder departments and programs. David and SC will meet to discuss, but an annual rate of \$31,500 or \$32,000 (since fees are not covered) seems to be in order.
 - b. Discussion on what should be done on the renewal, regarding stipends.
 - i. Several trainers thought that stipends should be the same as the highest feeder programs.
 - ii. However, Ambassadors have suggested in the past that a top off would generate a larger number of applicants.

Adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Note added: We are pleased to announce that former QCB trainee Emily Erdmann (Hundley laboratory) has been awarded an F31 (NRSA) individual predoctoral fellowship to complete her graduate research here. We strongly encourage all QCB fellows to apply for this support, initially during the 3rd year of T32 support (targeting the Dec 8 or April 8 deadlines for submission). This would allow for one revised application if necessary. Trainees in the Giedroc and Gerdt laboratories have submitted these applications as well, so feel free to reach out to one of us to make these submissions. They do take some planning.