

QCB Trainer's meeting

September 16, 2024, 4:00 pm

Attending (12/30): Kay Choi, Charles Dann, Clay Fuqua, David Giedroc, Heather Hundley, Stephen Jacobson, Jared Lewis, Ken Mackie, Nikki Pohl, Dan Tracey, Julia van Kessel, Ricardo Vazquez

Not present (14): David Clemmer, Silas Cook, Bogdan Dragnea, J. P. Gerdt, Andrea Hohmann, Peter Hollenhorst, Istvan Katona, Marc Morais, Sid Shaw, Tom Snaddon, Megan Thielges, Lesley Weaver, Claire Walczak, Malcolm Winkler

Known conflicts/absences (4): Hui-Chen Lu, Jake McKinley, Yan Yu, Adam Zlotnick

Agenda

1. Brief update on financial (slots, stipends, feeder program \$\$ buy-in)
 - a. Funded
 - i. 6/6/6/6/6 from NIGMS
 - ii. 2/2/2/2/2 from COAS – available to international students
 - iii. 1/1/1/1/1 from UGS – URM trainee only
 - b. 17 trainees currently in the cohort
 - c. All departments pay into the program based on percentage of trainers (\$5000 from chemistry; \$5000 from all other departments/programs combined). This pays for all extracurricular activities of the trainee cohort.
2. Programmatic changes outlined in the renewal
 - a. SC oversight of trainee progress (we will need to upload a SC evaluation form)
 - b. Train-the-trainer workshop: IN Spring 2025 1-hour mentoring workshop – Elizabeth Dunn
 - c. Some concerns noted (some by reviewers of our proposal)
 - i. Publications per graduated trainee has fallen.
 1. What impact did COVID have on this number?
 2. Nikki Pohl has noticed graduates receive a job and leave without finishing publications in progress.
 3. Suggest a student write a short review mid-career so that research output ticks up.
 4. Collaborative papers, between trainee groups and with other collaborators, suggested as a way to uptick publications.
 5. Look at the quality of papers. Is it declining also?
 6. Steering Committee member/student meeting – set expectations for 3-4 publications before graduation and annually check progress in achieving this goal.
 - ii. Attrition creeping up
 - iii. F99 award mechanism, Advancing Research Careers (ARC) Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award to Promote Diversity (F99/K00 - Clinical

Trial Not Allowed): <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/par-23-222.html>

- iv. Do cohort members get together to work on F31 applications? Does not seem likely
 - d. Other expectations of the QCB trainers
 - e. Rotation – To be considered for T32 funding, one rotation must be outside of home department. This was included in the 2023 renewal, but this information is not broadly known by training faculty or graduate directors.
3. Congratulations to the newly appointed trainees – Zach Celentano (van Kessel), Jane Joncha (Jacobson), Emma Lamb (Hundley), and Sandip Mishra (Lewis). Emma McRae (Giedroc), Lauren Augusta (Fuqua), and Victoria Lopez (Tracey) are currently in their 2nd year of funding.
4. Succession planning and visioning for the next 5-year period.
- a. Jared Lewis replacing David Giedroc July 1, 2025 as Director.
 - b. Need to name an Associate Director
 - c. Need to name another Steering Committee member to replace Giedroc.
5. Trainee survey responses (20/21; note that a couple of these students are no longer at IU). Survey results are in the Trainer's Team folder.
- a. 20 out of 21 eligible students responded.
 - b. Trainees are not active in the post-funded period. How do transform the post funded period into the second half of a 4-year experience? The hope is that younger trainees might learn from more senior trainees. This is not happening.
 - i. Some trainer groups are not participating.
 - ii. Ambassadors not getting responses from regular cohort members.
 - iii. Students like the leadership opportunity but find it hard to implement.
 - iv. Need a memo of expectations post-funding until graduation to complement the initial meeting with newly appointed trainees. Include this in the packet trainees received with their first year of funding. Also, have Steering Committee members review with the trainee during their annual meeting and remind them of the importance of this participation.
 - v. Leverage postdocs in trainer groups for events and mentoring. We need to broaden participation across all research personnel in all trainer laboratories.
 - vi. Microphiles seminar Friday's at 12:40 may serve as an excellent model for what QCB evenings might become.
 - vii. 2-3 QCB evenings per semester. Maybe use one of those over the course of an AY directed more professional development.
 - viii. More social events.
 - ix. Collaborations. Meet on the patio and discuss their research.
 - x. Learnings
 - 1. Cohort building must occur.
 - 2. Make a very public announcement of new fellows right after selection. This was done at the retreat, but we have to do more.

3. More formal mentoring with former trainees mentoring the current trainees.
6. New QCB Ambassadors: Andrew Bach (Chemistry) and Averil McFarland (Biology)
7. Upcoming events
 - a. Watanabe Symposium on 9/21/2024 (13th) and 4/12/2025 (14th)
 - b. QCB evenings (currently being scheduled)
 - c. Fall social event (currently being scheduled)
 - d. Student-sponsored seminar series (SSSS) (currently being scheduled)
 - e. Additional ideas in the works: fall and spring socials events, new fellow introduction in spring, moving Watanabe to spring, etc.

Note: Attendance at these annual meetings of the trainer group must improve, or it will continue to be difficult to build cohesion among the trainer group. This is why we rolled out the wine for this one. Please keep this in mind as we move forward. Thanks!

Thanks also for your participation at the program retreat!! This was a well-attended event.