

## **The Penn MSTP Mentorship Compact Between MD/PhD and VMD/PhD Candidates and their Research Mentors**

**The purpose of this document is to facilitate discussion between mentors and mentees and to help to align expectations and clarify responsibilities for both.**

The mentee in working to earn a PhD as part of an MD/PhD or VMD/PhD training program will undertake scholarship and research that together provide training essential for their career as a physician-scientist. Research mentors will prioritize the needs of the mentee as they work together to answer important questions and prepare the mentee for success as a physician-investigator.

By signing this compact, faculty mentor(s) and trainees indicate that they have read it, discussed it and will freely abide by it. If there are co-mentors, both should sign it. If there are any questions or concerns from either the trainee or the faculty mentor(s), please discuss them with either the MD/PhD program director (Skip Brass) or the VMD/PhD program director (Mike Atchison) before proceeding further. **This form will need to be completed before new mentor/mentee pairings can be approved.** Forward a signed copy of it to Dr. Brass or Dr. Atchison and to your graduate group chair when you are ready to formally request approval.

### **As a mentee I will:**

- Work with my thesis mentor from the beginning to establish expectations for this very important relationship.
- Take ownership of my thesis project with the input and approval of my mentor(s), including my thesis advisor and the members of my thesis committee.
- Take ownership of my professional development, through completion of an IDP annually and with guidance from my thesis advisor, my thesis committee, other mentors, graduate group resources, and career counseling services
- Have open and timely discussions with my mentor(s) about my research progress, access to resources and milestone achievements.
- Arrange regular meetings with my thesis mentor (on average 1-4 times a month).
- Arrange meetings with my thesis committee no less frequently than every 6 months starting no later than 6 months after my qualifying exam (for BGS graduate groups) or the end of year 3 of the MD/PhD program (for other graduate groups).
- Stay abreast of the latest developments in my field through reading the literature, speaking with experts and colleagues, and attendance at relevant seminars and scientific meetings.
- Build a professional network of other investigators within Penn and outside of Penn for mutual support and collaboration.
- Respect all ethical and institutional standards when conducting my research and ask for guidance when presented with ethical or compliance uncertainties.
- Maintain a relationship with my mentor(s) that is based on trust and respect.
- Work with my mentor and other members of our research team to maintain a safe and secure working environment.
- Comply with all institutional policies, including safe laboratory practices, responsible conduct of research, experimental design and transparency.

**As a research mentor I will:**

- Ensure my mentee's thesis project has every reasonable prospect of being feasible.
- Ensure that a mutually agreed upon set of expectations and goals for my mentee's research project is established at the beginning of the relationship and is updated regularly.
- Familiarize myself with the design and requirements of Penn's MD/PhD and VMD/PhD programs (<https://www.med.upenn.edu/mstp/>) and speak with the program directors if I have any questions or concerns.
- Ensure that my mentee will meet with their thesis committee no less frequently than every 6 months starting no later than 6 months after their qualifying exam (for BGS graduate groups) or the end of year 3 of the MD/PhD program (for other graduate groups). I will attend those meetings.
- Permit my mentee to devote a reasonable amount of time on a regular basis to the Clinical Connections program so that they can explore career options.  
<https://www.med.upenn.edu/mstp/clinical-connections.html>
- Support my mentee's efforts to build necessary professional skills, including writing, presentations at conferences and applications for fellowships such as NIH F30 and F31 grants.
- Strive for open and effective channels of communication with my mentee.
- Provide my mentee with timely guidance as they encounter hurdles, facilitate their interactions with other scientists, help them build a professional network at Penn and beyond, and encourage their attendance at scientific me
- Work collaboratively with co-mentors and thesis committee members to further benefit my mentee.
- Work with my mentee and other members of our research team to establish and maintain a safe and secure working environment.
- Commit to my mentee submitting their thesis project for publication in a timely manner with my mentee receiving appropriate credit for the work they performed.
- Promote all ethical and institutional standards when overseeing my mentee's research conduct and encourage them to ask for guidance when presented with ethical or compliance uncertainties.
- Maintain a relationship with my mentee that is based on trust, mutual respect and aligned expectations.
- Support my mentee and facilitate their transition to the next stages of their career.

Trainee's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Trainee's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Mentor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Mentor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

When completed, send a pdf of the signed form to either Maggie Krall ([Krall@Pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:Krall@Pennmedicine.upenn.edu)) for MD/PhD students or Anastasia Brown ([amb3@upenn.edu](mailto:amb3@upenn.edu)) for VMD/PhD students.

*Revised 12/22/2021*