

Protocol 1042 Students Involvement

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Protocol

GSSIMR encourages students' involvement in the graduate school outside of their courses and research. The four main mechanisms for further involvement are:

1. Representatives on Committees
2. GSSIMR Ambassadors
3. Wednesday Gatherings
4. Co-Curricular Activities

Representatives on Committees. Three faculty committees and one general committee have student representatives serving on them. The Academic Progression and Assessment Committee, Admissions Committee, Curriculum Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee each have one or two students serving on the committees. These committees meet on a regular basis to discuss the business of GSSIMR. The students participate by providing input into the policies and procedures related to students and the academic program, providing feedback regarding the curriculum, and participating in the planning activities of GSSIMR.

The goal is to have a broad representation of students on GSSIMR committees and achieve a balance that includes gender, year in program, scientific area, and background. Each appointment is for one year with the possibility of being reappointed for an additional year. In order to participate in committee service, students must be between year three and year five of their graduate program. When committee positions are available for students, the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs emails eligible students. Students then self-identify with their interest in an email reply. The Dean appoints students to the committees. Each representative serves on the Predoctoral Researcher Council. The purpose and process of the Predoctoral Researcher Council is detailed in Protocol 1045 Predoctoral Researcher Council.

GSSIMR Ambassadors. Students have the opportunity to participate in the admissions interview and recruiting days by serving as ambassadors. This gives the current students opportunities to meet and get to know the applicants. The ambassadors guide applicants to and from interviews, attend formal receptions and dinners, and interact with the applicants in informal settings. Feedback from the students regarding the applicants is shared with the Admissions Committee prior to final selection.

Monthly Gatherings. During the fall and spring terms, the students have monthly gatherings in the late afternoon. In addition to its social function, this time is used to discuss governance issues, report on ongoing projects, and solicit feedback from the students as needed. Topics in the past have included pay increase discussion, accreditation and certification updates, rotations, and use of social media.

Co-Curricular Activities. Co-curricular programs are learning activities that are essential to curricular activities and complement the formal curriculum. Programs identified as co-curricular align with and augment the curricular goals stated in the Core Competencies. These programs serve to enhance the academic program, are assessed with learning objectives based on the Core Competencies, and are not credit bearing.

SIMR Lecture Series

Students are expected to attend the SIMR Lecture Series. The Lecture Series brings renowned scientists from around the world to SIMR to give talks about a variety of scientific topics. The advisor may require a student to attend other seminars throughout the year. No credit units are offered for attending seminars.

Science Club

Students are expected to attend a weekly Science Club where GSSIMR's students and SIMR's junior scientists present their research. Students are required to present at least one time (and preferably more) during their tenure in the lab. No credit units are offered for attending Science Club.

Laboratory Safety, Radiation Safety, and Biosafety Level 2 Trainings (12 hours)

These laboratory safety training sessions occur early in the program and consist of lectures and a tour. SIMR, while maintaining regulatory compliance with several federal, state and local agencies, has the responsibility to provide a safe and healthy working environment for all individuals associated with SIMR and to minimize the environmental impact of performing basic medical research. These courses are designed to give students the tools necessary to conduct science in a safe manner at SIMR by discussing the regulatory requirements of OSHA, EPA, MDNR, NRC, and other regulatory agencies and applying them to real research scenarios. No credit units are offered for these trainings.

Research Integrity Course (9 weeks; 2 hours per day, 1 day per week)

The course is required for all students. The course lasts for nine weeks and meets weekly. Each course meeting is led by a panel of faculty and uses selected case studies to encourage practicing scientists to think about the principles of responsible conduct in research; to appreciate the devastating effect of scientific misconduct on public trust, institutional reputation, and individual careers; and to understand why at GSSIMR and SIMR there is zero tolerance for material deviation from commonly accepted standards for proposing, conducting, and reporting research. No credit is awarded for attending the course.

Scientific Conferences and Courses

Students attend scientific conferences and courses domestically and around the world. Conferences and courses provide a wider platform to discuss and disseminate scientific findings and emerging techniques. In addition to bolstering the current research of

students, conferences and courses provide a networking opportunity as students meet leaders in their field from the US and around the world. GSSIMR provides funding for one conference or course per year to every student. In addition, attendance to conferences and courses is funded by individual laboratory budgets and conference awards. No credit is awarded for attending or presenting at conferences or courses.

GSSIMR Course Teaching Assistant

Students enrolled in the GSSIMR program can serve as a teaching assistant in GSSIMR module courses. Teaching assistants must participate in planning activities, assessment activities, and teaching components. However, teaching is not a requirement of the program, and no credit units are available for teaching.

Crossroads Programs

The Crossroads program at SIMR fosters a sense of community among predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers. Crossroads activities are organized by a volunteer committee and include a variety of career-related and professional development workshops covering skills such as funding and grantsmanship, oral presentation skills, and effective manuscript writing. The annual Young Investigator Science Retreat (YISR) is one of the major scientific and social events that Crossroads organizes. YISR provides predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers with the opportunity to present their research to their peers with oral and poster presentations and to socialize on an Institute-wide level. Crossroads also organizes career development workshops that provide career resources for predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers to help them reach the next stage of their careers.

Data Clubs

Students organize weekly or biweekly meetings where they present their data or a recent journal publication to their fellow students. Other researchers in the SIMR community whose work is relevant to the presenter can be invited to join. The meetings are informal and are designed to help support the GSSIMR students' scientific progress and their community. No credit is awarded for presenting or attending the meetings.

Supergroup Participation

Groups of SIMR laboratories that have similar interests or are in similar fields often form a "Supergroup." The formation of these groups is spearheaded by the heads of the laboratories (the Principal Investigators) or other senior scientists. Currently, there is a Translational Research Seminar Supergroup, a Chromosome and Gene Expression Supergroup, a Developmental Biology Supergroup, and a Cell Division Supergroup. Students in the relevant labs attend the meetings of the supergroups, which generally occur bi-monthly, and present their research and data. This is an opportunity for the students to gain further experience presenting to colleagues, listening to and responding to questions and feedback, and communicating with audiences. No credit is awarded for presenting or attending the meetings.

Open Mic Science Club

Students organize, attend, and participate in a seminar series that occurs over the summer months. Students and SIMR researchers present their work to their colleagues and get feedback from those in attendance. Like the Friday Science Club, which is suspended during the summers, Open Mic Science Club is an opportunity for students to present to the wider SIMR community. No credit is awarded for presenting or attending the meetings.

In Balance Program

Students attend and participate in a series of programs that are focused on achieving and maintaining wellness. These programs are for personal and professional development in areas of finances, physical and mental health, parenting, and others. The programs are offered periodically through SIMR.