

## **Policy 920 Laboratory Entry**

**Policy Number: 920**

**Effective Date: 06/01/16**

**Revised Dates: 06/15/17; 08/01/17; 05/14/18; 11/09/2020; 09/18/2024; 07/31/2025**

### **Scope**

This Policy on laboratory entry applies to students of The Graduate School of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research ("School").

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the laboratory entry policy is to establish the occasions when a School student will enter a Stowers Institute for Medical Research (SIMR) laboratory for research and provide details as to why this occurs.

### **Policy**

The School students enter SIMR labs for rotation and thesis research.

Each standard admission student participates in three eight-week laboratory rotations during the spring term of their first year. The goal of the laboratory rotations is to position the standard admission students to enter thesis laboratories of their choosing, with the consent of the faculty. Each laboratory rotation is decided by mutual consent of the student and the faculty. The process is outlined in Protocol 1020 (Laboratory Rotations).

The option of a fourth rotation is reserved for the rare occasion when a student cannot find an adequate fit for a thesis lab after their first three rotations for reasons beyond their control. If such a situation arises, the student will need to initiate the request for a fourth rotation. The process is outlined in Protocol 1021 (Fourth Rotation).

Standard admission students enter thesis laboratories of their choosing in the summer term of the first year. Thesis laboratory placements are decided by mutual consent of the student and the faculty. While in their thesis laboratories, students are expected to develop and execute a research project that addresses a significant biological question to satisfy the requirements of a Ph.D. degree. The complete placement process is outlined in Protocol 1023 (Thesis Laboratory).

Direct admission students do not participate in laboratory rotations and are not placed in a thesis laboratory as described above. These students are directly admitted to the host PI lab for thesis research. They initiate their academic program at the beginning of either Summer or Fall term, complete the module course sequence, and then join the host lab without participating in rotations.

On occasion, special circumstances may arise that require a student to change rotation or thesis laboratories. Students should follow the process appropriate for their situation, as outlined in Protocol 1023 (Thesis Laboratory) or Protocol 1037 (Faculty Member's Departure).

This Policy was approved by the GSSIMR Board of Directors on September 5, 2018.

This Policy was reviewed and amended by the GSSIMR Board of Directors on November 09, 2020.  
This Policy was reviewed and amended by the GSSIMR Board of Directors on September 18, 2024.  
This Policy was reviewed and amended by the GSSIMR Board of Directors on September 18, 2025.

This policy will be reviewed again by the GSSIMR Board according to the annual policy review schedule.