

## **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**

### **Scope**

This Policy on laboratory entry applies to predoctoral researchers 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 predoctoral researcher will enter a Stowers Institute for Medical Research (SIMR) laboratory for research and provide details as to why this occurs.

### **Policy**

The School predoctoral researchers enter SIMR labs for rotation and thesis research.

Each predoctoral researcher 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 predoctoral researchers to enter thesis laboratories of their choosing, with the consent of the faculty. Each laboratory rotation is decided by mutual consent of the predoctoral researcher 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 predoctoral researcher 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 predoctoral researcher will need to initiate the request for a fourth rotation. The process is outlined in Protocol 1021 (Fourth Rotation).

Predocutorial researchers enter thesis laboratories of their choosing in the summer term of the first year. Thesis laboratory placements are decided by mutual consent of the predoctoral researcher and the faculty. While in their thesis laboratories, predoctoral researchers 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).

On occasion, special circumstances may arise that require a predoctoral researcher to change rotation or thesis laboratories. Predocutorial researchers 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 will be reviewed by the GSSIMR Board of Directors in 2022.