

Appendix I

Interview Guide

Graduate Partnerships Program Five Year Self-Study Assessment of Graduate Student Experience

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with an honest assessment of your experience in the Graduate Partnerships Program to date. Student input is essential and invaluable as we look at the growth and evolution of the GPP since its inception five years ago.

Please **type answers** to the questions below and **email it to Rick McGee** (mcgeer@od.nih.gov) at least the day before your scheduled interview. If you need more room than each section allows just keep typing! Dr. McGee will go over your answers with you for clarification or expansion. All student comments will be compiled and reviewed by both GPP staff and the External Advisors.

ALL INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. OTHER THAN THE GPP LEADERSHIP, NO INFORMATION OR COMMENTS WILL BE RELEASED IN ANY MANNER THAT WOULD ALLOW THE IDENTITY OF THE RESPONDENT TO BE REVEALED. We ask for your name and university to keep track of who we have heard from and help identify areas to improve.

After your interview you will also have a chance to provide anonymous comments and feedback.

Interview Date _____

Name _____ University _____

Date started PhD program _____ Date started at NIH _____ Anticipated Grad. date _____

Coursework complete Yes ___ No ___ Qualifying exams complete Yes ___ No ___
Dissertation Proposal approved by university Yes ___ No ___

1. If you are in one of the formal GPP partnerships, which one, and if you are in an individual agreement, how did you establish your connection to your NIH mentor?
2. List the greatest **benefits** you see for doing dissertation research at NIH.
3. List the greatest **challenges** you see for doing dissertation research at NIH.
4. On balance, do the benefits outweigh the challenges? Why?
5. **If you are in one of the formal GPP partnerships**, list the greatest **benefits** to having experience at both your university and NIH – the partnership concept.

6. **If you are in one of the formal GPP partnerships**, list the greatest **challenges** to working between your university and NIH.
7. If you are doing a PhD dissertation that involves two or more research mentors/advisors, what do you see are the **benefits** to you of doing this?
8. If you are doing a PhD dissertation that involves two or more research mentors/advisors, what **problems** have you or do you expect to encounter? How did you (or how do you plan to) overcome these?
9. How would you describe the quality and quantity of mentoring you received and from whom? Was there anything you had hoped to receive from your mentor that you did not?
10. List any ways you think you will be **different** by the time you complete your degree from students who pursue a Ph.D. like yours in a traditional university program.
11. What administrative or programmatic functions of the NIH GPP are working very well?
12. What administrative or programmatic functions of the NIH GPP need improvement?
13. What administrative or programmatic functions of your university are working very well?
14. What administrative or programmatic functions of your university need improvement?
15. From where you are now (at whatever stage of your Ph.D.) would you join the NIH for your graduate research again? Yes ___ No ___ Why or why not?
16. What are your current long-term career plans?