Excellence

IMSD Training modules are short, non-credit, active learning experiences that occur throughout the year. Module topics have been specifically designed to build complementary skills to students’ discipline-specific training, and prepare confident, successful and well-rounded graduates able to work in team settings. These modules are available to all PhD students in Biology and Public Health as part of their professional development. Each module is led by Brown faculty in partnership with an IMSD Senior Scholar, an advanced PhD student in one of our graduate programs. Scholars serving in these roles receive valuable teaching and mentoring experience.

Training Module Topics
“Demystifying the PhD Experience: Strategies for Academic & Personal Success in Graduate School”
“Reading Scientific Publications”
“Managing and Sharing Your Research Data”
“Essential Laboratory Calculations”
“Navigating a Successful Graduate Career: Professionalism & Etiquette”
“Professionalism & Career Development: Preparing for the Postdoc Experience”
“Graphic Presentation of Scientific Data”
“Beyond the Hypothesis: Experimental Design and Critical Analysis”
“Designing and Delivering Scientific Presentations”
“Defending Your Research Proposal and Critiquing Those of Others”
“Resources, Tools and Basic Techniques in Molecular Biology”
“Scientific Writing: Key Principles”
“Introduction to Statistical Analysis of Data”

Further information: http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd/training/

IMSD Seminar Series
Gatherings of the IMSD community of faculty mentors and students include workshops, panel discussions and prominent guest speakers.

Community
The Graduate School at Brown University is composed of just under 2000 masters and doctoral students from all states and many foreign countries engaged in a wide range of scholarship and inquiry. The diversity of this community is a recognized strength of the University. Commitment to diversity is visible via the structural support and breadth of services offered at Brown to ensure an inclusive learning environment. These include an Institutional Office of Diversity (www.brown.edu/Administration/diversity/programs_struct.html), recruitment and retention programs as well as student activities sponsored by The Graduate School (http://gradschool.brown.edu/) and within the Division of Biology and Medicine (http://biomed.brown.edu/grad-postdoc).

Collaboration
The Brown IMSD program partners with the following institutions in preparing students from underrepresented groups for careers in biomedical and public health research:
- St. John’s University
- York College of the City University of New York
- North Carolina A&T State University
- The College of Mount Saint Vincent

Research presentations, collaborations, faculty and student visits and co-advising are encouraged as students prepare for graduate school and careers in biomedical and behavioral research.

Co-Directors:
Andrew G. Campbell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Medical Science, Department of Molecular Microbiology & Immunology

Elizabeth O. Harrington, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Professor of Medicine (Research)

Program Coordinator:
Karen Z. Ball

Direct inquiries to: IMSD@Brown.edu

Initiative to Maximize Student Development (IMSD) Program

Division of Biology and Medicine
IMSD@Brown.edu http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd/
Join Those Who Share Your Passion for Discovery

“Advancing the Culture of PhD Learning and Scholarship in Biology and Health Sciences”

Brown University is located in Providence, RI, itself a “Renaissance” city of arts and cross-culturalism. Over 16% of the city’s nearly 183,911 residents are African American; about 38% are Hispanic or Latino/Latina; and about 6% are Asian. Visitors & new residents find a welcoming community with a rich history of celebrating cultural traditions & ethnic diversity.

Brown University is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and inclusive scholarly community. IMSD is a predoctoral research training initiative that aspires to significantly increase the number of PhDs from groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research. Brown’s IMSD program is funded by a research education grant and renewal award (R25GM083270) from the National Institutes of Health (April 2008 – March 2017). IMSD provides a multidimensional and personalized training experience featuring: cutting edge research, continuous advising, and centers, degree completion requirements, etc. I go to: (http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/programs)

Our program strives for Excellence, Community and Collaboration in an innovative, interactive learning environment. Participants are US citizens or permanent residents who are members of a group traditionally underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. Selection of IMSD students is made in consultation with graduate program directors and based on student academic preparation, research experience and recommendations. They are identified from incoming PhD cohorts spanning these twelve Graduate Programs within the Division of Biology and Medicine and School of Public Health.

As of Fall 2014, the IMSD program has supported a total of 33 pre-doctoral trainees and thirteen of these trainees have earned their Ph.D. degree.

Biomedical Engineering
Creates new knowledge and improves human health through cross-disciplinary research and educational activities that integrate the engineering and physical sciences with the life sciences and clinical practice.

Biostatistics
Trains students to develop theory and methods for study design, data analysis, and statistical inference, and to apply the methods to address research questions in public health, biology, medicine, and social sciences.

Biotechnology
Studies a range of topics related to the field of biotechnology such as regenerative medicine, drug delivery, stem cells, nerve guidance, drug discovery to allow students to conduct translational research, from conceptual design through in vivo testing with an eye toward clinical implementation.

Behavioral and Social Health Sciences
Offers multidisciplinary training that equips students to use behavioral and social science theory and methods to understand contemporary health problems. Focus is given to health issues, such as diet, physical activity, obesity, alcohol and other drug abuse, smoking and tobacco use, HIV risk behaviors, and behavioral medicine.

Computational Biology
Seeks to make breakthrough discoveries in the life sciences through the development and application of novel computational, mathematical, and statistical techniques. Research aims to exploit opportunities emerging from rapid technological advances in genomics and proteomics.

Eco-Health & Clinical Research
Studies the distribution and determinants of disease in populations to generate new discoveries regarding disease causation and to develop community and individual based preventive activities.

Epidemiology
Studies the distribution and determinants of disease in populations to generate new discoveries regarding disease causation and to develop community and individual based preventive activities.

Health Services Research
Analyzes the organization, policies, and economic forces affecting health care delivery systems, providers, and consumers with the goal of improving services and creating more equitable health outcomes by influencing health policy at all levels.

For complete information about each of these graduate programs (including admission requirements, affiliated faculty, research facilities, and centers, degree completion requirements, etc.) go to: (http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/programs)

Each student receives a unique advising plan and support structure that continues throughout their graduate career at Brown. Students receive a generous 12-month stipend, and benefits including full tuition, health fee and health insurance. IMSD students are appointed as graduate Research Assistants during their IMSD doctoral research training. They will often go on to apply for and receive prestigious individual fellowships or be appointed to an NIH Training Grant. Time to Ph.D degree averages approximately 5.5 years within graduate programs of the Division of Biology and Medicine and School of Public Health.