

**GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TRAINEES  
SUPPORTED BY THE BIOMEDICAL ALCOHOL RESEARCH TRAINING  
PROGRAM**

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

**Interdisciplinary training**

The National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA), which funds the Biomedical Alcohol Research Training Program (ARTP), require that all training provided by the Biomedical ARTP be interdisciplinary in nature. The following criteria are used to comply with this requirement:

- *Mentors.* All Biomedical ARTP trainees must identify two mentors, one from their primary discipline and one from a second discipline that relates to their research. Mentors should be identified as early as possible in the trainees' studies. The primary mentor will assist in selecting courses that are appropriate for the trainee's academic programs and are consistent with Biomedical ARTP requirements. Mentors are heavily involved in the trainees' development of their research projects. Mentors must be committed to meeting regularly with their trainees, preferably each week, to discuss the trainees' progress on coursework and research, and must be available between the regular meetings. An additional important role of mentors is to assist trainees in identifying and accessing academic and research resources within and outside of LSUHSC. This includes intra- and extramural research collaborations, IRB procedures, access to relevant study populations or specimens, funding opportunities, and recommendations for postdoctoral training and/or career opportunities.
- *Elective courses.* Biomedical ARTP trainees must choose elective courses that provide interdisciplinary didactic exposure and exploration of the literature of disciplines related to alcohol research. The Perspectives in Alcohol Research (PAR) seminar is a requirement for all trainees. Furthermore, trainees are encouraged to attend the scientific writing course offered by the School of Graduate Studies (PHYSIO 250) taught by Dr. Michael Levitzky. In addition to teaching successful scientific writing, this course will help the trainees to develop skills necessary for critically

reviewing scientific journal articles. Trainees will receive continuous ethics training in responsible conduct of research primarily through coursework, but also at various workshops given by LSUHSC-NO and other institutions. Attendance is strongly encouraged by all trainees. Courses include: Ethics in Biomedical Sciences led by Dr. Barry Potter, Associate Professor of Physiology and Responsible Conduct in Research led by Dr. Paula Gregory, Professor of Genetics.

- *Experiences.* Projects (e.g., laboratory, field, clinical), workshops, and conferences that trainees participate in or attend should be selected with a view toward interdisciplinary research experiences and exposure.
- *Research.* The research undertaken by all trainees must be interdisciplinary and conducted under the direction of their dual mentors.
- *Funding.* Trainees are strongly encouraged to apply for independent funding (F30, F31, F32 mechanisms) through NIH or where appropriate.

### **Biomedical ARTP seminars and scientific meetings**

All trainees are expected to:

- Attend the weekly Perspectives in Alcohol Research (PAR) Seminar (described above), which provides opportunities to interact with other trainees and to hear updates on Alcohol Research and the Biomedical ARTP. Trainees are encouraged to identify topics for upcoming semesters allowing them to have an active role in their training and development. Active participation on discussions and presentations is expected. Examples of topics covered at PAR meetings include: Director's updates on Program and NIAAA developments, work-in-progress sessions by the trainees, invited speakers in alcohol research, overview of the alcohol research centers across the country, discussion on animal models of alcohol intoxication, etc. Trainees will present progress updates semi-annually.
- Attend the Annual Intramural Alcohol & Drug Abuse Center of Excellence Scientific Retreat and submit abstracts for poster presentations when appropriate.
- Trainees will present their research at the annual Research Society on

Alcoholism Conference and will be encouraged to submit applications for student merit and Enoch Gordis awards.

- Attend other appropriate on-campus seminars (with email notification provided by Program Directors). Examples include seminars offered by the Comprehensive Alcohol Research Center, other centers, and the trainees' respective departments. Additionally, trainees will have the opportunity to network with successful alcohol researchers. Informal lunches are often scheduled for trainees and speaker, followed by a nanosymposium, where trainees have the opportunity to do a 5 minutes presentation for the invited speaker.
- Funds are available to enable attendance at a national or regional conference or scientific conferences each year. Two trainees will be selected to attend the biannual NIAAA trainee workshop.

#### **Other didactic experiences and training opportunities**

- *IBC, IRB and HIPAA training.* All Biomedical ARTP trainees must complete training for compliance with Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Use and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requirements. All students in the School of Health Professions and the Joint Basic Health Sciences must complete continuing compliance education including biological safety, quarterly safety modules and HIPAA training.
- *Career development opportunities.* LSUHSC Graduate School's Professional Development Program and Post-doctoral Fellow Development Program offers courses and workshops designed to improve the academic and professional communication skills of graduate and postgraduate trainees and to help prepare them for independent careers. Topics include elements of writing grant applications; locating funding sources; preparing manuscripts for publication; finding and securing professional positions; appropriate negotiating skills; interpersonal/communication skills to develop and maintain effective relationships with students, colleagues, and supervisors; and preparing and managing a research budget.

## **Research**

Under the direction of their dual mentors, Biomedical ARTP trainees develop novel research projects and engage in cutting edge basic and clinical research that can be translated into effective community-based interventions. To satisfy Biomedical ARTP requirements, trainees' projects must be interdisciplinary and focus on areas that are relevant to alcohol use and abuse. Many research projects involve understanding the health consequences of HIV infection in alcohol-using and -abusing populations in line with the mission of the comprehensive alcohol research center (CARC; see website for detailed list of research areas- <http://alcoholresearch.lsuhscc.edu/faculty.aspx>). The research plan of the trainees will promote interdisciplinary interactions within the CARC as well as with the scientific community at large.

## **Publications and Acknowledgements**

Trainees are expected to submit their research results to peer-reviewed journals for publication. All publications that result from or are related to Biomedical ARTP support should acknowledge the support, using language such as "This project was supported [in part] by grant number T32 AA07577, Biomedical ARTP grant, funded by the NIAAA, NIH. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIAAA or the NIH." Biomedical ARTP trainees are required to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy. This includes submission to Pub Med Central, upon acceptance for publication, an electronic version of a final peer-reviewed manuscript resulting from research supported in whole or in part, with direct costs from NIH. The author's final peer-reviewed manuscript is defined as the final version accepted for journal publication, and includes all modifications from the publishing peer review process. For additional information, please visit <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>.

## **Evaluation and follow-up**

All trainees must agree to:

- Complete a brief written Progress Report sent by the Biomedical ARTP Coordinator to all trainees at the end of each semester or year, describing

what he/she has accomplished recently and what he/she plans to accomplish in upcoming months. Both the fellow and the primary advisor must sign the Report.

- Complete written questionnaires, participate in group discussions, and to interview with Biomedical ARTP faculty individually if necessary. Other meetings for informal discussion of biomedical ARTP business may be held throughout the year.
- Complete an exit questionnaire and interview as they finish their Biomedical ARTP support.
- Complete three year and five year follow-up survey.
- Follow-up with the Biomedical ARTP directors for at least 5 years after completing Biomedical ARTP support. This is done in part by completing post-training questionnaires in the third and fifth years and reporting professional progress including positions, awards and publications.

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Signature of Trainee/ Date

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Primary Mentor/ Date

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Secondary Mentor/ Date

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Director of T32/ Date