CLIMB
Collaborative Learning and Integrated Mentoring in the Biosciences

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Funded by NIGMS Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD)
Since 2007

Mission:
- Develop advanced skills for collaborating, communicating, and conducting research across disciplines
- Accelerate professional development of bioscience PhD students
- Use a holistic, coaching approach to foster student development.

The CLIMB program creates a diverse community of young scientists

- Every fall, first year bioscience PhD students from five graduate programs are invited to participate - BME, ChBE, DGP, IBiS and NUIN
- Approx 30 students sign-up every year
Program activities in the 1st year promote connections and communication skills

**PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

**Year 1: Transitions and Oral Communication Skills**
- Monthly workshops on skills essential for maximum success - communication skills, peer mentoring, grant writing - and guidance from CLIMB leadership
- Academic, professional, personal and social transitions
- Adapting to teaching and learning methods in grad school
- Choosing a Mentor
- Excelling in research rotations
- Creating effective scientific posters
- Instruction and practice on oral presentations for different kinds of audiences - effective and engaging introductions, visual displays of scientific data, etc.
- Effective communication with different styles and personalities - the Myers-Briggs personality types
- Building (mentoring) networks

Program activities in the 2nd year focus on skills for growing independence

**Years 2-3: Progressing Towards Independence**
- Grant Writing
  - Introduction to the NIH and NSF grant review processes and the technique of “writing for reviewers”
  - Introduction to funding sources (fellowships, training grants, travel awards) and assistance in applying for awards
  - Structured group activity on writing skills in the context of research proposals, fellowship applications and manuscripts
- Individual Development and Career Planning
  - Individual Development Plans
  - Career-Specific Skill-building and Strategic Planning
- Mentorship
  - Learn effective mentoring skills
  - “Mentoring Up” - skills for managing your own mentoring with highly effective mentoring relationships
DGP and NUIN Facilitated Study Groups
Sign up at the end of today’s session

Small Group Learning
- Addresses “gaps” in knowledge
- Pro-active learning style
  - Construct and synthesize knowledge for yourself and each other
  - Discover and engage with a range of perspectives and backgrounds

Facilitation
- NOT a traditional TA or tutoring role
- Advanced graduate student helps with coordination and accountability
- Keeps the group from getting “stuck”
  - Can guide discussions
  - Correct logical missteps
- Access to first-hand experience with course instructors, materials, etc.

CLIMB provides a one-of-a-kind community at Northwestern

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- Learn from and collaborate with peers outside your program
  - DGP  IBiS  NUIN  BME  ChBE
- Study groups for core courses with trained facilitators
- MAXIMIZE YOUR SUCCESS
  - Coaching from program leaders who are national leaders in efforts of mentoring and coaching young scientists
  - Dedicated time for intentional career planning

Applying for CLIMB
- Invitation will be emailed this week
- Short application essay required
Questions?