**Genetics Training Grant Program**

**May 2016**

The University of Michigan Genetics Training Program (GTP) is an interdisciplinary program with faculty members from the Departments of Biological Chemistry, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Human Genetics, Microbiology/Immunology, Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, and Pharmacology. Faculty members have a common interest in the application of genetic approaches to biological problems. Trainees work toward a Ph.D. degree in one of the six departments while completing the core requirements of the GTP. Interaction with an interdisciplinary group of students and faculty in small seminars provides an enriched exposure to the exciting new developments in genetics and genomics. Each winter semester, students select a topic and host the visits of 3-4 leading geneticists for a day of seminars and discussions as part of the Genetics Short Course.

Trainees are expected to achieve a strong foundation in genetics as well as complete the degree requirements of their Ph.D. department. The program is flexible in order to meet students' special interests.

**The program currently has 11 funded positions. Students are typically supported during their second and third years of graduate study. This year new students will be admitted to the program with a September 1, 2016 start date.**

**Program Requirements**

1. Human Genetics **541** (Molecular Genetics), 3 credits, Fall term.
2. Bioinformatics (Bioinf) **525** (2 credits, Winter term) , Bioinformatics (Bioinf) 545 (3 credits, Winter term), or a Bioinformatics/Computational Biology course that is relevant to your dissertation research (please get prior approval from Drs. Moran and Antonellis to register for this course).
3. Genetics **631,** Training Grant Student Seminar, 1 credit, Winter term. Students enroll for two years and present a seminar each year.
4. Genetics **632**, Faculty Seminar, 1 credit, Fall term. Students enroll for two years.
5. Human Genetics **630** (Genetics/CMB Short Courses), 1 credit. Students enroll for   
   two semesters.
6. Monthly student research presentations by senior GTP students.
7. Presentation of a poster at the Annual Retreat in May or June.

Students also take an additional 6 credits of relevant coursework from a list of course options.

**Application Process**

The program is administered by an Executive Committee (EC), which has a representative from each department. Students who have selected genetics-oriented thesis research in one of these departments are eligible to apply. The faculty advisor should contact the department representative (listed below) and, together with the trainee, provide to the EC representative the following materials:

**I. Background information (available from departmental student services staff):**

1. Undergraduate and graduate transcripts.
2. Letters of recommendation from the student's original application.
3. Undergraduate and graduate GPA and GRE scores.
4. Rotation evaluations.

**II. Student statement of interest:** a one page statement of interest demonstrating the student's commitment to further training in genetics, including evidence from prior research experience, rotation experiences, and coursework.

**III. Student Biosketch on NIH form**

**IV. Letter from faculty mentor:** addressed to the Genetics Training Program indicating willingness to be the student's mentor, attesting to the student's bona fide interest in genetics, assessing the student's qualities (strengths and weaknesses), and describing the genetics content of their potential thesis research.

**All applications must be received by Wednesday, June 1, 2016. Please apply as early as a choice of laboratory has been made, to lessen the workload around the deadline period**.

**Selection Process:** Department representatives present their candidates at a meeting of the Executive Committee for evaluation and selection.

For more information, please contact:

**Karen Grahl**

**Department of Human Genetics**

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**kgrahl@umich.edu**

**Department representatives to the Executive Committee:**

Biological Chemistry, Audrey Seasholtz

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Timothy James

Human Genetics, Tony Antonellis

Microbiology & Immunology, Christiane Wobus

Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, John Schiefelbein

Pharmacology, Paul Hollenberg

Student representatives, Christina Vallianatos and Alyssa Kruger

Program Director, John Moran, Department of Human Genetics

Co-Director, Anthony Antonellis, Department of Human Genetics