# LABORATORY ROTATIONS

In PIBS or MSTP, each student participates in research by completing at least 3 laboratory rotations. Rotations must be completed prior to the selection of a dissertation mentor. The duration of one laboratory rotation is generally 4 or 8 weeks, and can include summer rotations prior to and after the first academic school year. PIBS students receive academic credit by enrolling in PIBS 600. Both PIBS and MSTP students should make rotation arrangements in consultation with specific rotation mentors.

**Rotating with Non-CMB Faculty**

Students interested in CMB must complete at least one rotation under the supervision of a CMB faculty member, or a faculty member who is willing to apply and be accepted to CMB, and subsequently, take on all faculty responsibilities associated with CMB membership. The appropriateness of rotations with faculty outside of CMB will be reviewed by the CMB Program Committee.

An associate director arranges rotation advisory committees for PIBS/MSTP students who are interested in CMB during the summer before CMB matriculation. These committees aim to provide names of additional faculty who may be of interest to a student and guidance in selecting rotation mentors.

**Choosing a Rotation Mentor**

***Picking the right rotations is critical*** for finding a dissertation lab where the student will be successful. Before choosing a rotation lab, research faculty and meet to discuss expectations and research projects.

- Visit the CMB website under "People" and review faculty research and profiles
- Email a faculty member whose work interests you and schedule a time to chat
- Attend CMB retreats in the Fall, or CMB symposia in the Spring to meet and talk to new faculty
- Attend CMB 850 seminars and other research presentations through CMB events

***Some questions students may want to ask before choosing a rotation lab:***

- Is the lab currently taking new students? How many other students are interested in rotating and how many new students can the mentor accept into the lab?
- What does the mentor expect from rotation students? How much time do rotation students generally spend in the lab and how much data are students expected to produce?
- Which projects are available? Does the mentor expect the student to complete a project on a grant or do graduate students have more freedom to define their own research projects?
- How many people are in the lab and are other members of the lab experienced researchers? Do the members of the lab enjoy training students? Are lab members happy in the lab?
- How are lab meetings and meetings with the mentor structured? Is there a venue for supportive and open discussion of student's work within the lab and with the mentor?
- Does the lab have sufficient funds to support a graduate student through the duration of the dissertation research? Where does the funding come from? Are students expected to apply for training grants or write grant proposals to secure their own funding?
- What is the mentor's management style? Newer researchers are more likely to be in the lab and involved in training students on a day-to-day basis, while senior professors often have administrative and professional duties that keep them away from the lab some of the time.
- How long has it taken previous graduate students to complete their degrees?