

March 12, 2021

NIH Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) Summer 2021 Appointments and Rotations:

The NIH Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) allows PhD level students to perform research within the NIH IRP. During the summer of 2021, new GPP appointments may continue to proceed as appropriate, in accordance with the policies of the respective partnerships and standard protocols.

Students associated with GPP Institutional Partnerships are required to perform summer rotations in many programs. Examples of such rotations include (1) incoming and prospective students performing their initial/first-year rotations at the NIH, (2) rising second year students that have spent the first year focused on academics and are returning to NIH to perform their final rotations in order to secure dissertation placement, and (3) MD/PhD students performing an initial NIH rotation between their 1st and 2nd year of medical school. While these rotation experiences take place in the summer, these students are not part of the NIH Summer Internship Program (SIP). **The policy on SIP being entirely virtual in 2021 does not apply to the GPP.**

Rotations for GPP students may physically take place at an NIH campus provided there is a clear safety plan in place for each case and the trainee fulfills all required COVID-19 related safety trainings to perform research on-site. Virtual rotation experiences will be an option for GPP trainees that prefer this path. The safety of our trainees and staff remain the top priority when considering training plans. The GPP office must be notified about all new students. For GPP Individual Partnerships, the official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be in place before trainees may begin their rotations.

Physical NIH campus access is approved for new GPP appointments and rotations, however all such additions to the labs/research groups are treated as exceptions and must be submitted to, and signed off by, the exceptions committee for tracking purposes.

PhD students applying for the explicit purpose of participating in the 2021 SIP, with no plan of transitioning to the GPP, must adhere to all SIP-related policy; including appointment as a Student-IRTA and performing the internship 100% virtually.