

The AMS Mentoring Program in GI Motility and Neurogastroenterology Research

Introduction

The American Motility Society Research Committee is starting a Mentoring Program in GI Motility and Neurogastroenterology Research to help young clinicians and scientists (MDs, PhD's, or DVM's) in starting their research career in areas of neurogastroenterology and gastrointestinal motility. The research and areas of interest can be in a variety of different areas and be in clinical investigation, basic science research, and/or translational science research. The objective of the program is to help provide guidance to individuals at an early stage of their career who may enter the field of neurogastroenterology and gastrointestinal motility. This type of experience for students, fellows, and young scientists can be invaluable and have a tremendous impact in their later success, particularly in light of the difficult funding period we are in.

The younger members and trainee members of AMS might want to participate in this program as a mentee - someone who wants to be mentored. We also urge others that are not currently members of AMS who might benefit from this mentoring program to apply.

Description of the Mentoring Program

For this program, mentees who wish to have a research mentor apply to this program. Likewise, established investigators with experience in both research and in mentoring, who wish to help with this program in mentoring others will apply to this program. The application process is easy, available on the AMS web site, and detailed below. The AMS Research Committee will review the applications and assign a mentor-mentee pair. The mentor will be given the application of the mentee and the mentee's CV. The mentee will be given the application of the mentor and the mentor's CV/Biographical Sketch.

The mentor will be introduced to the mentee at one of the annual national meetings – AMS or DDW at a breakfast, lunch, or dinner meeting given by the AMS Research Committee. At this meeting, the goals of the mentoring program will be discussed by the AMS Research Committee. Through this program, the mentor will help provide younger mentees with suggestions, guidance, and assistance. This can be performed through a variety of ways including email, telephone calls, and meetings. We suggest that the mentors/mentees have a telephone call at least once every two months. We also suggest mentors meet with their mentee during the AMS and AGA meetings.

The AMS Research Committee, consisting of Yvette Tache, Gianrico Farrugia, Tony Bauer, Jay Pasricha, and others will monitor the mentoring program and the needs of the mentee by reviewing the annual evaluation forms filled out by both the mentor and mentee. A status report should be submitted for each mentor/mentee pair quarterly.

The AMS Career Mentoring Program requests a minimum one-year commitment from mentoring pairs. After that time, the mentoring relationship can continue for as long as the participants are willing. At the end of the year-long commitment, mentors and mentees will be given an evaluation form that the AMS membership committee will use to track the success of the matches made as well as the program as whole.

Mentees (individuals who wish to have a mentor)

The mentee form is for interested individuals (mentees) who wish to have a mentor in this program. These individuals could be a graduate student, clinical fellow, young clinician, and scientist (PhD's, DVM's or MD's) in the fields of clinical and basic science related neurogastroenterology and GI motility. These individuals need to be members or trainee members of the AMS. Nonmembers can join through our AMS website at www.motilitysociety.org.

Criteria for mentees

1. Seeking an academic career in neurogastroenterology and GI motility
2. Less than 5 years out of postgraduate training
3. Able to meet with mentor once a year
4. Able to have a phone conversation with mentor once every 2 months.
5. Willing to fill out a brief annual progress note/evaluation form each year for 2 years

Mentors (individuals volunteering to mentor others)

The AMS council believes it is important that established investigators help those young scientists and clinicians who are just starting their careers. Therefore, we encourage experienced members of the AMS to participate as a Mentor. The mentor form is for interested individuals who would like to be involved in this program as a Mentor. These individuals will help others who are starting in our field. The mentors should be experienced individuals in Neurogastroenterology/GI Motility Research. Mentors must be a member of AMS – either a current AMS member or a non AMS Member who will apply for membership to the AMS through our AMS website at www.motilitysociety.org.

Criteria for mentors

1. Willing to do it
2. Able to meet with mentee once a year
3. Able to have a phone conversation with mentee once every 2 months
4. Active in research – defined as at least an average of one publication a year for the last 5 years
5. Needs to have been in their field for at least 5 yrs
6. Willing to fill out a brief annual progress note/evaluation form each year for 2 years

Applying for the AMS Mentoring Program

The forms to sign up for this program are on the AMS web site at <http://www.motilitysociety.org> . On the left hand side of the screen, the third grey box of links is for the AMS MENTORING PROGRAM IN RESEARCH with links for the Mentor Form and the Mentee Form. These can be filled out and electronically submitted to the AMS. Email a biographical sketch or a curriculum vitae as well to admin@motilitysociety.org when submitting your Mentor/Mentee Form on-line. The AMS Research Committee will review the information received and make recommendations to the pairing of a mentee with a mentor.

Alternatively, the application could be mailed to the AMS:
AMS Mentoring Program in GI Motility and Neurogastroenterology Research
American Motility Society
45685 Harmony Lane
Belleville, MI 48111

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