

PiNBAC Mentor Orientation

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PiNBAC Co-Directors

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Goals for Today

- Introduce you to RSI/PiNBAC programming, expectations, and resources
- Share some challenges & lessons learned from our inaugural year
- Have a discussion to address your questions or concerns and to brainstorm ways that we can better support you and your trainees

Introduction to the Research Scholars Initiative (RSI) and the Program in Neuroscience Post-Bac (PiNBAC)

RSI Leadership & Contacts:

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Introduction to the Research Scholars Initiative (RSI) and the Program in Neuroscience Post-Bac (PiNBAC)

Resource Hub for PiNBAC Trainees and Mentors: [PiNBAC Participant Site](#)

Includes links to...

- [Guide to PiNBAC](#)
- RSI handbook
- [RSI/PiNBAC Program-At-A-Glance](#)
- [PiNBAC Curriculum Schedule](#)
- PiNBAC Google Calendar
- Other resources

Expectations for PiNBAC PIs

- Agree to hire and fund a post-baccalaureate scholar whose **primary role is to conduct mentored research - with a path towards independence - in the laboratory**
 - This is not equivalent to a research technician, who spends some portion of their time on administrative/technical tasks not typically assigned to other trainees in the lab. (A good guideline is that a PiNBAC scholar should have comparable responsibilities and training opportunities as graduate trainees, adjusted for their level of experience and ability.)
- **Agree to send PiNBAC scholars to at least one conference** (preferably at the end of the postbac, to present their work during PhD application season) such as SACNAS, ABRCMS, SfN, or equivalent.
- **Agree to a 20% time allowance for PiNBAC/RSI programming and professional development outside of the laboratory** that is tailored to the scholar's background and needs (e.g. taking an additional Harvard course during the semester, etc.)
- Agree to meet with Bob and Tari periodically to discuss scholar progress, and to **commit to a mentoring plan** that ensures the success of the postbac. In addition to periodic structured interactions with the PI, in nearly all cases postbacs should be **assigned a clear mentor in the lab** (a senior graduate student or postdoctoral fellow) who has been made aware of the requirements of the PiNBAC program and agrees to its goals and policies.

Expectations for PiNBAC Trainees

What expectations with regards to laboratory training would you like us to convey to trainees?

RSI/PiNBAC Program At-A-Glance 2022-23

P1 = 1st year PiNBAC trainee; P2 = 2nd year; not specified = both years | RSI curriculum, PiNBAC curriculum

July 2022

(P1) Monday, July 11 (11am-1pm): RSI in-person orientation

(P1) July 18-22 (10am-12pm each day): PiNBAC Orientation

- July 18: PiNBAC Kick-Off / Program Introduction
- July 19: Navigating the Lab Environment
- July 20: Mentorship & Mentor Maps
- July 21: Taking Control of your Training and Well-Being
- July 22: Strategies for a Successful Start in the Lab

(P1) Tuesday, July 19 (3:30-4:30pm): RSI Financial Literacy Workshop

August 2022

(P1) Thursday, Aug 4 (11am-12pm): RSI Academic Resource Center (ARC) Workshop

(P1) August 8-19 (MWF 10am-4pm): Python Bootcamp

(P1) TBD: Responsible Conduct of Research Course

(P2) August 1-5 (9am-12pm): Quantitative Neuroscience Bootcamp with visiting Morehouse School of Medicine BS/MS students

- Encouraged for 2nd year PiNBAC trainees (plan to require participation for 2nd year PiNBAC trainees beginning in summer 2023)

TBD (Ideally first week in August): Welcome Event w/USN and visiting MSM students

September 2022

Thursday, Sept. 29 (afternoon, time TBD): Inaugural Synaptogenesis Symposium

- P2s will give research talks and P1s expected to attend; poster session for other neuro RAs

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Academic Year (Sept – Mid-Dec; Late Jan. – May)

Tuesdays (tent. 5-7pm, weekly): RSI Required Core Course

Mondays (9am-12pm, monthly): PiNBAC Workshops & Lunch w/Directors

- 9-11 = workshops (some will be opt-in for 2nd years); 11-12 = lunch with directors

Thursdays (1-2 pm, weekly): Optional Drop-In Student Hours with Tari

TBD (evenings, ~twice/month): PiN Nocturnal Journal Club

- PiNBAC trainees are encouraged to attend, and required to present at least once during program

Individually Scheduled: Meetings with PiNBAC Mentoring Pod

Fall (ideally early Oct.) & Spring (likely April): Research Update Presentations

- Students present their work to PiNBAC & RSI directors, PIs, and pod mentors
- *Exact scheduling determined by individual students and coordinated with RSI*

(P1) April: Present at [New England Science Symposium](#) (2023 date: Sunday, April 2 at NRB)

(P2) August-October: Participate in PiN NSF GRFP Peer Mentoring Program and submit proposal

(P2) Fall: Apply to PhD programs (deadlines typically ~ Dec. 1)

(P2) January-March: Interview at PhD Programs (commitment deadline April 15)

Students should have the opportunity to attend (& ideally present at) a conference before applying to PhD programs.

Challenges and Lessons Learned Thus Far

- Facilitating communication between the program and PIs, and between PIs and trainees
- Principles of culturally aware mentorship and the interplay of science and identity
- Introduction to the broader training landscape for URM trainees: SACNAS, ABRCMS, recruitment visits, etc.

Other specific experiences people want to share from the past year?

Discussion: How Can We Help You?