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Mentoring Statement

Mentoring is an essential part of working in science. At UNM, I have mentored high school, undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, graduate, MD/PhD, and postdoctoral fellows. As a mentor, I strive to personalize my mentoring to the unique needs of each student. Core competencies for Ph.D. students in my laboratory include: (1) expanding technical skill sets appropriate to career goals; (2) achieving excellence in scientific writing and communication; (3) publishing research findings in peer reviewed journals; (4) presenting their research results at national and international scientific meetings; and (5) sustaining a high level of research performance. All Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D graduate students in my lab are expected to apply for travel awards and required to apply for NIH fellowships. My students have received prestigious NIH Diversity F31 Predoctoral fellowships, NIH F30 MD/PhD fellowships, travel awards, and NIH T32 fellowships. In recognition of my mentoring skills, I received the 2023 Outstanding Mentor Award from the UNM BSGP students. I am currently serving as the Director of the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program. Ph.D. graduate students receive individual 1 hour weekly meetings to receive individualized mentoring in career development, writing skills, responsible conduct of research, professional development, academic advisement, and other needs. Additionally, I meet with graduate students as needed each day to support their scientific experimental design skills. I also hold weekly lab meetings for all members of my laboratory where graduate students present their research, practice oral presentation skills, troubleshoot experiments, and discuss scientific papers. I encourage my students to build a sustainable career in science by focusing on wellness and learning work-life balance skills.