

**A Guide  
for Graduate Students  
at  
The Rockefeller University  
2018-19**

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Kristen Cullen – *Graduate Admissions Administrator and Registrar*

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Stephanie Fernandez – *Dean's Office Assistant and SURF Coordinator*

Revised: March 11, 2019

## NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of The Rockefeller University to support equality of educational and employment opportunity. No individual shall be discriminated against with respect to admission, access, or employment in or to any University program or activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and sexual harassment), disability, age, citizenship status, military status, marital or partnership status, sexual orientation, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. The Rockefeller University is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University's non-discrimination policy:

Virginia Huffman  
Vice President, Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator  
Founder's Hall, Room 103  
New York, New York 10065  
(212) 427-7261  
[huffman@rockefeller.edu](mailto:huffman@rockefeller.edu)

Inquiries also may be directed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights at: <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/> or by telephone at: 1-800-868-1019, or 1-800-537-7697 (TDD).

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## Contents:

<b>I. Introduction</b> .....	6
a. Mission.....	6
<b>II. Accreditation</b> .....	6
<b>III. Administrative Structure</b> .....	6
a. Dean's Office Staff.....	6
b. Graduate Program Advisory Committee (GPAC).....	6
<b>IV. Academic Information</b> .....	7
a. Academic and Advisory Information.....	7
b. Office of Graduate Studies.....	7
c. Academic Records.....	7
d. Leave of Absence.....	8
e. External Fellowships.....	8
<b>V. Academic Requirements</b> .....	8
a. Matriculation.....	9
b. Selecting a Research Laboratory and Advisor.....	9
c. Ph.D. Degree Requirements.....	10
Program Outline.....	10
First Year.....	10
Second Year.....	11
Third and Subsequent Years.....	12
d. M.D.-Ph.D. Degree Requirements.....	13
e. Tri-Institutional Training Program in Chemical Biology (TPCB).....	13
Degree Requirements.....	13
f. M.S. Degree Requirements.....	14
g. Thesis Preparation.....	15
h. Assessment of Progress.....	16
Faculty Reports.....	16
Student's Annual Report.....	16
Thesis Research Proposal.....	16
FAC Meeting.....	17
Annual Reappointment.....	17
i. Academic Disciplinary Action.....	18
Academic Probation and Dismissal from Program.....	18
Dismissal from Lab.....	18
<b>VI. Course Descriptions and Requirements</b> .....	19
Seminars on Modern Biology.....	19
Experiment and Theory in Modern Biology.....	19
Statistics: a Short Course.....	19
Responsible Conduct of Research.....	20
Overview of Courses in the Biological Sciences 2018-2020.....	21
Biochemistry, Structural & Chemical Biology & Biophysics.....	23
Cell, Molecular & Developmental Biology.....	23
Genetics.....	25
Bioinformatics, Mathematics and Programming.....	25
Microbiology & Virology.....	26
Neurosciences.....	27
General.....	28

<b>VII. Policies, Procedures, and Rules</b> .....	30
a. Standard of Conduct.....	30
b. Policy for the Prevention of and Response to Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, and Stalking .....	30
The Title IX Coordinator .....	32
c. Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking and Bias-Related Crime Policies and Procedures.....	40
d. Maintenance of Public Order.....	46
e. Penalties for Violations of Rules.....	47
f. Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy.....	47
g. Computer and Electronic Communications Policy .....	47
h. Intellectual Property and Copyright.....	47
i. Internship Policy .....	48
j. Laboratory Care and Animal Use .....	48
k. Leave of Absence .....	48
l. Nepotism and Personal Relationships .....	49
m. Radiation Monitoring Policy .....	49
n. Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure.....	49
o. Smoking Policy.....	49
p. Student Employment Policy.....	49
q. Substance Abuse Policy.....	49
r. Vacation Policy.....	52
s. Prohibition on the Marketing of Credit Cards.....	52
t. Grievance Procedures.....	52
<b>VIII. Financial Information</b> .....	52
a. Student Research Funds .....	53
Electronic Purchase Guidelines .....	53
IT Connected Back-Up Program.....	54
Equipment for Student Research .....	54
Student Travel for Meetings and Conferences .....	54
Travel Fellowships .....	54
b. Tuition Defrayment.....	55
c. Bronk Fund.....	55
<b>IX. Information for International Students</b> .....	56
<b>X. Housing and Meals</b> .....	56
<b>XI. Resources</b> .....	56
a. Information Technology (IT).....	56
b. Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health .....	57
c. Library .....	58
d. Student Representative Committee (SRC) .....	59
<b>XII. Services and Programs</b> .....	60
a. Athletic Facilities.....	60
b. Brooke Astor Student Life Center .....	60
c. University Perks.....	61
d. The Faculty and Students Club.....	61
e. Friday Lectures .....	61
f. Health Services.....	61
Emergency Assistance.....	61
Health Benefits .....	62
Health Insurance Plan.....	62
Immunization Law .....	63
Maternity Leave.....	63
Personal Counseling and Mental Health Care .....	63

	Wellness Programs .....	64
	Occupational Health Services .....	64
g.	Mail Room.....	64
h.	Security.....	65
i.	Student Retreat .....	65
j.	Tickets for Museums and Other Cultural Activities .....	65
k.	Tri-Institutional Noon Recital.....	66

## **I. Introduction**

### **a. Mission**

The mission of The David Rockefeller Graduate Program at The Rockefeller University, a world-renowned center for research and graduate education, is to provide the highest quality education in science for the benefit of humanity. Founded by John D. Rockefeller, Sr. in 1901 as the nation's first institute for medical research, the University has a unique laboratory-based structure that encourages interdisciplinary research, which today plays an increasingly critical role in scientific achievement. The rigorous academic training and research environment enables students to develop creativity and discover their own capabilities.

## **II. Accreditation**

The David Rockefeller Graduate Program at The Rockefeller University is accredited by the New York State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234; Telephone: (518) 474-1551.

Program title: Biological Sciences  
Program codes: 22043 (MS), 09328 (PhD)  
HEGIS code: 0401

Program title: Physics  
Program codes: 22044 (MS), 09332 (PhD)  
HEGIS code: 1902

## **III. Administrative Structure**

### **a. Dean's Office Staff**

Sidney Strickland, *Dean*  
Emily Harms, *Senior Associate Dean*  
Andrea Morris, *Director of Career and Professional Development*  
Marta Delgado, *Senior Graduate Program Administrator of Finance and Student Affairs*  
Kristen Cullen, *Graduate Admissions Administrator and Registrar*  
Cristian Rosario, *Graduate Program Coordinator and Finance Associate*  
Stephanie Fernandez, *Dean's Office Assistant and SURF Coordinator*

### **b. Graduate Program Advisory Committee (GPAC)**

Titia de Lange, *Chair*  
Fred Cross  
Jeffrey Friedman  
Howard Hang  
Tarun Kapoor  
Michel Nussenzweig  
Agata Smogorzewska

## IV. Academic Information

### a. Academic and Advisory Information

Graduate Fellows of The Rockefeller University are expected to engage full time in advanced study and research. The program requires initiative and self-discipline from the student; it offers the student freedom and the opportunity to study and learn to the limit of his or her ability. There is no prescribed course of study that each student must follow. An individual program should be worked out through discussions with the Dean and relevant faculty members, as described in detail below. Many options are available to the student in putting together an acceptable program of advanced study and research.

The goal for the time required for the PhD is 5 years, (4.5 years for the MD-PhD student). Students are allowed a maximum of seven years to complete all degree requirements. Students who find themselves in academic, personal or financial difficulties should feel free to discuss these matters with the Dean.

### b. Office of Graduate Studies

The Office of Graduate Studies is located in Founders Hall, Room 105 and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Dean's office staff is available to assist students with their academic needs.

### c. Academic Records

Academic records are housed in the Office of Graduate Studies. These are confidential University records. A student may request a transcript at any time, but it will not be released without the student's written consent. Requests for transcript statements must be **made at least 7 days prior to the deadline for which they are required.**

[Notice of Rights of Access to Student Records and Directory Information Definition Under the U.S. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.](#)

Pursuant to the U.S. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g ("FERPA"), a student is entitled to review those records, files, documents and other materials, maintained by the university, which contain information directly related to the student. Further, the student may request a hearing, in accordance with the regulations issued by the U.S. Secretary of Education, to challenge the content of the education records, in order to insure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's rights. The student may insert in the records a written explanation respecting the contents of such records if the suggested corrections or deletions are not made by the University.

A student's access and review is subject to the following conditions:

1. The University has 45 days to comply with a written request to review the records.
2. All information declared confidential by the Act or excluded from the definition of "education records" in the Act, is not available for inspection.

Under FERPA, the University has designated the following information as directory information which is available to the public: name, address, electronic mail address, telephone listing, date of birth, place of birth, photograph, enrollment status, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended. Pursuant to the Solomon Amendment, 10 U.S.C. § 983, upon request, the University must release directory information to the military for purposes of military recruiting. A student has the right to inform the University that directory information should not be released to any third parties. A student wishing to withhold the release of directory information to any third parties must submit a written request to the Dean's Office.

#### **d. Leave of Absence**

Please refer to the "Policies, Procedures, and Rules" section (Pg. 30).

#### **e. External Fellowships**

##### EXTERNAL COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

**When a student obtains a competitive fellowship, his or her stipend is supplemented by \$5,000 annually, throughout the duration of the fellowship.** Please note that most applications are now available on-line.

The Office of Sponsored Programs Administration (OSPA) lists current fellowship information on their website <http://www2.rockefeller.edu/sr-pd/index.php?page=PredocPrograms>

##### **Ford Foundation** (Predoctoral and Dissertation Fellowships)

Website: <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm>

Deadlines: Predoctoral: December 13, 2018

Dissertation & Postdoctoral: December 6, 2018

##### **National Science Foundation** (Graduate Research Fellowship Program)

Deadline: October – November

Website: <http://www.nsfgrfp.org>

##### **NIH Research Training Opportunities**

Deadlines: Vary

Website: [www.grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm)

##### Ruth L. Kirschstein (NRSA) Fellowships (F31)

Website: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-18-671.html>

Deadline: April 8, August 8 and December 8

Deadline for AIDS related applications: May 7, September 7 and January 7

Deadline for Diversity Fellowships: April 8, August 8 and December 8

## **V. Academic Requirements**

There is no prescribed curriculum in the life sciences; each student develops a program of advanced study that is constructed in relation to individual need. Students are required to participate actively in courses, discussions and tutorials, and fulfill designated qualifying requirements. The student's plan of study and the subsequent conference with the Dean, and/or a Faculty Advisory Committee, provide an initial review of the professional goals of each student.



Academic requirements must be completed by the end of a student's second year at the University. Exceptional circumstances may require an extension of this time limit, at the discretion of the Dean on the recommendation of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee. The procedure for assessment of competence is the satisfactory completion of specified courses, seminars, or tutorials in which the student interacts sufficiently with the instructors to permit the necessary evaluation. Each course director will be required to complete a form evaluating a student's performance in the course, and supporting the assignment of a pass/fail grade.

Most courses are scheduled on a 2-year cycle, but some are offered annually. Information about courses, participation and qualification requirements appear in the following pages. If a specialized course that is essential for a student's research is not available at Rockefeller, and if he or she wishes to enroll in a course at another institution, then student should contact the Registrar for instructions.

**Note: the Registrar will help guide the process, but it is the student's responsibility to submit the online application, waive health insurance and send the tuition bill to the Dean's Office within 2 weeks of registration.**

All students need written permission from their advisors to enroll in outside courses. To obtain funding from the Dean's Office to cover tuition and fees, the letter must justify how the course is critical to his or her current research. Students may also appeal to the Dean to consider the external course for Rockefeller credit. Such requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The course must include some form of evaluation, (final exam, term paper or class presentation), and the student's performance must be assessed and written comments forwarded to the Dean's Office. Students are encouraged to arrange tutorials with appropriate Rockefeller faculty members, if they feel the need. The Dean will consider granting credit for a tutorial if it includes a form of evaluation (written proposal, oral presentation, etc.)

### **a. Matriculation**

At the time of enrollment in the program, the Dean's Office must have received final official transcripts from the undergraduate institution in which a student was enrolled, confirming that the anticipated course of study was completed and the appropriate degree was received. Transfer credit will be determined by the Dean on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, first year graduate students must comply with the New York State immunization law by submitting documented proof of immunity against Measles, Mumps and Rubella. (Please see "Immunization Law", Pg. 63.)

Incoming students are required to attend an orientation day during the first week of September. Students should plan to arrive on campus 3 to 5 days before orientation, but no later than September 4th.

On joining the program, students are required to comply with general requirements of The Rockefeller University. These include, but are not restricted to: security, health and safety regulations, policies for inventions, patents, materials, computer networking and consulting agreements.

### **b. Selecting a Research Laboratory and Advisor**

Students are encouraged to develop their research programs early during their careers at Rockefeller. An important aspect of a student's program is developing a compatible association with a research advisor (or advisors). Rotations through several laboratories, during the first year, are encouraged but not required. A student who wishes to arrange a rotation should contact the faculty member with whom he or she would like to be associated. The relationship is established after thoughtful consideration by

the student and by the prospective advisor.

Students who arrive with a particular mentor or project in mind may immediately join that laboratory. The student must obtain the approval of the lab head and inform the Dean's Office of her or his plans. All students must affiliate with a laboratory by September 1<sup>st</sup> of their second year. The student's thesis lab affiliation becomes official once the Dean's Office has been notified. After the first year, students who wish to change labs must consult the Dean before any decision is made.

In the event that a student's mentor leaves Rockefeller before the student has completed and received approval of a thesis proposal, the student may either find a new mentor at Rockefeller or transfer graduate programs (providing the mentor's new institution agrees). After the successful defense of the thesis proposal, permission to move with the mentor, but remain a Rockefeller student, is possible and will be decided by the Dean on a case-by-case basis. Funding for students who leave Rockefeller will also be determined on a case-by-case basis.

### **c. Ph.D. Degree Requirements**

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy is awarded on the basis of satisfactory completion of academic requirements, the submission of an acceptable written thesis comprising a body of novel scientific experimental or theoretical research, the presentation of the thesis in an open lecture, and satisfactory performance in an oral examination given by the student's thesis committee. The final thesis is to be made freely accessible to anyone interested in its contents. It constitutes a scientific publication.

The academic requirements for the life sciences are discussed below. The requirements, consisting of 7 course units and yearly FAC meetings, must be fulfilled before the written thesis can be submitted to the faculty.

The written thesis must be acceptable in form and substance to the thesis committee. The final oral examination, also called a thesis defense, is scheduled prior to submission of the written thesis.

Students may complete all requirements for the PhD degree at any time of the year, but the formal ceremony for conferring of degrees is held each year in June, which will determine the official year of graduation. It is the policy of the University to withhold diplomas and transcripts until all outstanding financial obligations have been met.

#### PROGRAM OUTLINE:

##### FIRST YEAR

There is no prescribed course of study that each student must follow. A student spends the first year in coursework and may rotate in one or more laboratories. **All students must notify the Dean's Office of their rotation plans. An e-mail that lists rotation start and end dates should be sent to the Senior Associate Dean and Registrar.**

##### Meeting with the Deans

In September, immediately following their arrival, 1<sup>st</sup>-year students will meet with the Dean and Senior Associate Dean to review their preparation for graduate studies and to discuss coursework and rotations. Depending on their research interests, students may also meet with a designated faculty member within that discipline for additional advice. There will be a follow-up meeting with the Deans in January, after the first rotation.

## Rotations

Rotations through several laboratories, during the first year, are encouraged but not required. Students who arrive with a particular mentor or project in mind may immediately join a laboratory, for which the student need only obtain the agreement of the lab head and inform the Dean's Office of her or his plans. The student's thesis lab affiliation becomes official once the Dean's Office has been notified. Laboratory rotations should be organized by making direct contact with the lab head. Although rotating students may work closely with other members of a laboratory, the lab head is responsible for a student's progress and for the appropriateness of the assigned project. All students must at all times be associated with a laboratory. Any student who encounters problems arranging a laboratory affiliation should immediately seek advice from either the Senior Associate Dean or the Dean. All students should finalize their choice of laboratory by September 1<sup>st</sup> of their second year.

## Coursework

First year students must attend the mandatory courses Seminars on Modern Biology, Experiment and Theory in Modern Biology, the Statistics Short Course and the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) seminars.

## Academic Year End Requirements

In May, first-year students will meet with the Deans to review the student's activities to date: participation in courses and laboratory rotations. Students will be expected to give an account of their laboratory experiences and their plan for the second year, with regard to choosing or confirming a thesis laboratory and assuring that their knowledge and choice of courses is appropriate to the area of the thesis research.

By June 1<sup>st</sup>, each student writes an annual report (see page 16), which identifies the courses taken or planned, status of qualification requirements, lab work, and plans for the future. **The report should be submitted to the current advisor and to the Dean's Office.**

## SECOND YEAR

All academic requirements must be completed this year, unless otherwise approved by the Dean. (Students may subsequently participate in additional courses on a voluntary basis). All 2<sup>nd</sup>-year PhD students are required to be in the laboratory in which they intend to perform their thesis research by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Thesis Research Proposal (TRP):

2<sup>nd</sup>-year PhD students are required to submit a Thesis Research Proposal (TRP) by June 1<sup>st</sup> of this academic year and to defend it before a Faculty Advisory Committee by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The TRP should be presented in a standard format, closely following that of an NIH grant, but shorter. The proposal should start with an abstract, no more than 250 words, followed by a list of the specific aims (maximum 1 page), a scholarly review of background and significance (2-3 pages), preliminary results (if any), experimental plan, timeline and literature cited. A summary of coursework taken, highlighting academic knowledge that is especially relevant to the proposed research, should be appended. It is expected that the proposal will be written by the student and discussed with the advisor. The length of the proposal is limited to 10 pages of single-spaced type, including figures. References are excluded from the page limit.

The Graduate Program Advisory Committee (GPAC) regards this as the time at which a student's performance and prospects should be carefully evaluated. In consultation with their advisor, a student will choose a Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC). The Faculty Advisory Committee must consist of two Rockefeller heads of lab in addition to the student's advisor. If the student wishes, the committee can be expanded with additional faculty members; in some cases, especially for interdisciplinary projects, this can be important to provide a broad range of expertise. The written TRP must be sent to a student's Faculty Advisory Committee at least one week in advance of the meeting.

The thesis proposal presentation is the point at which it is determined if the student is prepared to proceed to the second phase of graduate research. The FAC is charged with determining that the student is intellectually prepared for the project and that the project appears sound. The committee will evaluate the proposed project for its scientific foundations and feasibility, and will consider the student's presentation to ensure that he or she is enthusiastically committed to the project. The committee will also review the student's course background and can recommend that the student take specific additional courses, if considered necessary.

At this time, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, the FAC can: (1) accept the thesis proposal unconditionally; (2) accept the oral presentation but require a rewrite of the proposal; (3) provisionally accept it, but require another meeting within 3 months to evaluate progress; (4) reject the thesis proposal and require that a new one be written and presented within 3 months; (5) reject the thesis proposal and recommend that the student complete requirements for the Master's degree; (6) recommend that the student leave the program without any degree.

The Chair of the FAC will report in writing to the Dean's Office on the outcome of the meeting, and this report will form a part of the student's permanent record. The written report will be sent to the student as well.

### THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS

Students should meet with their FAC whenever the student, the advisor or the Dean considers it necessary, **but at least once in any twelve-month period**. The FAC is an important complement and counterbalance to the student's advisor, and its function is to guide and evaluate thesis progress. **The student is responsible for scheduling annual FAC meetings**, which may be attended by the Dean or his nominee, at the Dean's discretion. Students must give their FAC committee a copy of their Annual Report (or other similar research update) at least one week prior to their FAC meeting date. Failure to schedule a FAC meeting within a 12 month period will result in academic probation.

Any consideration of a change of laboratory must be discussed with the Dean **prior** to its occurrence. **A FAC meeting must precede and endorse any change of thesis laboratory.**

The Chair of the FAC, (who may not be the research advisor), is expected to write a brief report to the Dean, which will be kept in the student's file. All FAC meetings should convene in this sequence: (1) a brief discussion will take place between the FAC members and advisor in the absence of the student; (2) the student will present his or her research to the FAC; (3) the Chair and third member will lead the discussion and direct questions to the student, (the advisor should not participate in the discussion unless the other faculty request it); (4) the meeting will conclude with a discussion between the FAC and student in the absence of the advisor.

Students are also required to write a brief annual report (see page 16), which will address research progress, courses, publications, and any additional information pertinent to the student's progress and prospects, to be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The student's annual report should also be circulated to the members of the FAC.

#### **d. M.D.-Ph.D. Degree Requirements**

##### DESCRIPTION OF THE TRI-INSTITUTIONAL MD-PHD PROGRAM

In 1991, The Rockefeller University – Cornell University Medical College MD-PhD Program became Tri-Institutional. The Rockefeller University, Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences and Memorial Sloan-Kettering merged their programs. All Biomedical Fellows earn the MD degree from Weill Cornell Medical College and choose a laboratory at the start of year three either at Rockefeller, Cornell or Sloan-Kettering.

Students enter the MD-PhD program on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The first two summers and possibly the third are spent doing rotations in at least two of the three graduate institutions. The first two academic years are spent in the pre-clinical curriculum at Weill Cornell Medical College. The next three to four and a half years are spent pursuing a research topic and completing academic and thesis requirements at the chosen institution while maintaining contact with the clinical environment at Cornell.

##### REQUIREMENTS

MD-PhD students are required to choose a thesis laboratory by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the third year. This first PhD year is spent designing a thesis project and completing qualification requirements. (Rockefeller MD-PhD students must satisfactorily complete 5 course units, in order to comply with the uniform requirements of the Tri-Institutional Program). By September 1<sup>st</sup> of the fourth year, a TRP must be written and submitted to the Dean's Office. The TRP must be defended in front of the student's FAC by November 1<sup>st</sup> of the fourth year. The written TRP must be sent to a student's Faculty Advisory Committee at least one week in advance of the meeting. Events then proceed as for the third year PhD students (see page 12). After completion of the PhD degree, the last year of the program is spent in clinical rotations at Cornell to fulfill requirements for the MD degree.

During the research years, central financial support at Rockefeller will be limited to four and a half years. Any additional support must be provided by the advisor.

#### **e. Tri-Institutional Training Program in Chemical Biology (TPCB) Degree Requirements**

The Tri-Institutional Training Program in Chemical Biology was established in 2001 as one of the first graduate programs to focus on research and training at the interface of chemistry and biology. Students have the opportunity to perform their thesis research with outstanding faculty from across three

campuses: The Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, or Weill Cornell Medical College.

## REQUIREMENTS

Students in the TPCB program carry out three laboratory rotations during their first year (in at least two of the three graduate institutions). Rigorous coursework is also provided to ensure that each student has the necessary fundamental knowledge base to pursue their research successfully.

Students in the TPCB program must complete 4 lecture courses: 1) Chemical Biology (Rockefeller), 2) Chemistry in Biology and Medicine (Weill Cornell), 3) Choice of a Core Course: Advanced Organic Chemistry, Statistical Thermodynamics or Pharmacology I (Columbia) and 4) Choice of an Elective Course.

TPCB students must also complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course and participate in regular 'Research in Progress' meetings in which they share and discuss their latest research results.

TPCB students select a thesis laboratory by the end of the first year. By June 30<sup>th</sup> of the second year, a Thesis Research Proposal (TRP) must be defended in front of the student's FAC. The written TRP must be submitted to the Dean's Office two weeks in advance of the defense. Upon successful completion of the oral examination, students devote their full time to thesis research.

### **f. M.S. Degree Requirements**

The Rockefeller University is approved to grant the degree of Master of Science (MS) to students who satisfy specific criteria. The following is a synopsis of the procedures and requirements. The Dean should be consulted if further information is required.

#### *Procedural Criteria*

- In cases where the Dean, the advisors, or other members of the faculty determine that a student is not making reasonable progress or is not conforming to the standards of responsible behavior expected of a student of the David Rockefeller Graduate Program, the student and advisor shall be so informed and the established procedures invoked to review the status of the student. If the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) or ad hoc committee should recommend that the student be terminated from the Graduate Program, the student will be told whether or not, and under what terms, he or she may be eligible for the MS degree. Students who voluntarily elect to leave the graduate program should consult the Dean to determine their eligibility for the MS degree.

#### *Requirements and Curriculum*

- Students must have satisfactorily completed the requirements of the Academic Curriculum of the graduate program.
- The student must write a Master's thesis. An appropriate length would be 30-50 thesis-style pages representing a scholarly review of the primary literature, which may also contain experimental data. The thesis must be presented and examined by an ad hoc committee. The committee shall consist of three Heads of Laboratory, as well as the Dean. Of the three

members of the committee, one shall be chosen by the student, one by the Dean, and one shall be agreed upon mutually.

- If a student has begun thesis research, then he or she must have written a thesis research proposal (TRP), which was approved by an advisor and orally defended to a Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC). Depending upon the quality of the proposal and the work that has been derived from it, this may be allowed to replace the Master's thesis requirement described above.
- Once a student has notified the Dean of his or her decision to leave the Graduate Program, or has been notified that his or her participation will be terminated, the student, on the recommendation of the FAC or ad hoc committee and at the Dean's discretion, may continue to receive funding for a period not exceeding six months, in order to complete the requirements for the MS degree. To receive the MS degree, all of the requirements, including examination of a thesis, must be completed within twelve months of notice of termination in the graduate program. These periods shall be further limited by the established terms of the graduate program. Funding for students who have declared the intention to receive an MS degree will be at the discretion of the Dean. No student shall receive an MS degree later than the seventh anniversary of his or her enrollment date.

### **g. Thesis Preparation**

When the FAC determines that a student is ready to write and defend a thesis, the FAC becomes the thesis committee by the addition of a faculty member from another institution. The external member of the thesis committee may not be a present or recent collaborator of the student or lab, a recent Rockefeller University graduate, nor a person in whose laboratory the student intends to pursue his or her career. Additionally, the external member may not have been present at any FAC meeting prior to the thesis defense. The Dean must approve the external member choice before the defense can be scheduled. The student must meet with the Senior Graduate Program Administrator of Finance and Student Affairs in the Dean's Office to discuss requirements for thesis preparation, defense and graduation. Dates are set for the public lecture and defense (oral exam) and for the submission of the written thesis.

The written thesis may not be submitted to the thesis committee without the research advisor's approval. **A student must submit the written thesis to his or her committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the defense.** The last possible date for the oral examination and the public lecture falls approximately five weeks before the June graduation date, so the deadline is usually April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The written thesis is to be printed for submission to the thesis committee. One copy is made for each member of the committee.

**The final version of the thesis, complete with revisions required by the thesis committee, must be submitted to the Dean's Office for binding by April 30<sup>th</sup>. (Biomedical Fellows are required to submit the final version before returning to medical school.)**

Students should realize that the writing of the thesis is a demanding task that takes considerable time. Failure to plan properly may result in a missed deadline for submission of the thesis, which could jeopardize a student's graduation plans.

Any changes in these plans must be made with the knowledge and approval of the Dean's Office. Following the student's public lecture and thesis defense, the Dean's Office must receive written notification from the thesis committee that the student has passed the oral defense and is qualified for graduation. The written notification takes the form of a signed defense letter that is issued immediately after the oral exam is passed. The signed defense letter should then be hand delivered to the Dean's Office.

## **h. Assessment of Progress**

### FACULTY REPORTS

Rockefeller teaching faculty do not use conventional grades to evaluate the academic progress of a student. Course performance is assessed on a pass/fail basis. Those who have taught courses or tutored students are asked to submit written reports to the Dean's Office. Satisfactory progress is determined by the Dean through the review of these reports. Each report becomes a permanent part of the individual's academic record at the University. The reports are used to prepare a graduate transcript and to respond to other requests for information regarding a student's academic program.

Transcript requests must be made **at least 7 days prior to the deadline** for which they are required.

### STUDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

On June 1<sup>st</sup> each student is required to submit to the Dean's Office a brief, accurate account of his or her research and study activities during the past academic year. This account should include –

1. Courses taken here and elsewhere (including full title of each course and the name of the instructor).
2. A summary of research progress and progress towards a thesis (including laboratory and name of research advisor).
3. List of manuscripts in press or published.
4. A certificate documenting your progress on an Individual Development Plan (IDP) from: <http://myidp.sciencecareers.org>
5. Any other information pertinent to progress as a graduate student.

### THESIS RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Second year PhD students must submit a Thesis Research Proposal to the Dean's Office by June 1<sup>st</sup> and they must defend it in front of a Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Fourth year MD-PhD students must submit a Thesis Research Proposal to the Dean's Office by September 1<sup>st</sup>, and they must defend it in front of a Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) before November 1<sup>st</sup>. Second year TPCB students must submit a TRP to the Dean's Office by June 1<sup>st</sup> and defend it by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The written TRP must be sent to a student's Faculty Advisory Committee at least one week in advance of the meeting. Please refer to Pg. 11 for details on the format of the Thesis Research Proposal (TRP).



## FAC MEETING

Students meet with their FAC, whenever the student, the advisor, or the Dean considers it necessary or advisable, but **at least once in any twelve-month period**. This is a program requirement. Failure to comply with the FAC system will jeopardize a student's enrollment in the graduate program. At these meetings, the student's academic and research activities are reviewed and discussed in relation to more general expectations and plans for formulating and completing a thesis. A timely meeting is especially important for students expecting to complete their thesis research and graduate at the end of the current academic year. **Students should inform the Dean's Office of every scheduled FAC meeting (date, place, time) and notify the Dean immediately if there are changes in FAC membership. Any changes in FAC membership must be approved by the Dean.** Students must give their FAC committee a copy of their Annual Report (or other similar research update) at least one week prior to their FAC meeting date. If a student does not have a FAC meeting during a twelve-month period, they will be placed on academic probation (see Pg. 18). The student will then have a probationary period in which to hold a FAC meeting without penalty.

## ANNUAL REAPPOINTMENT

Satisfactory progress in advanced study and research is a minimum requirement for annual reappointment as a Graduate Fellow. Students must file annual reports by June 1 and hold FAC meetings every 12 months in order to maintain good standing and ensure reappointment. Reappointment occurs on July 1 when the Dean's Office verifies academic progress.

**It is essential for students to realize that the annual FAC meeting requirement is not met until the Dean's Office receives a written report from the committee.** The FAC Chair writes the report, but it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the report is filed in the Dean's Office. Students who fail to schedule FAC meetings or secure missing reports will jeopardize reappointment.

In the case of a student's progress not being found satisfactory, there are two possible outcomes:

1. The Dean will request a 'probationary' reappointment, during which time specified deficiencies are to be addressed. If deficiencies are remedied during this period, the appointment will continue until July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Otherwise, reappointment will not be granted.
2. Reappointment will not be recommended.

In the unusual event that the Dean or the directors of the MD-PhD or TPCB program do not support a student's reappointment, a committee will be formed to review the situation. This committee will include the Dean (and, in the case of an MD-PhD or TPCB student, the program directors from Rockefeller and Cornell) and the student's Faculty Advisory Committee or research advisor. The student's past performance will be reviewed and problems discussed by the committee. A written report will be issued to the President and the student summarizing the committee's deliberations and recommendations.

In order to be reappointed, it is entirely the student's responsibility to be sure that his or her Annual Report is submitted and that he or she is up-to-date with the FAC system.

For students engaged in experimental research, the goal is that all work towards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy will be completed within five years of the student's enrollment date, and within four and a half years of the MD-PhD student's affiliation date. The Dean's Office will provide stipend, health insurance and a research budget for each student during this period. After this time, the research advisor becomes responsible for providing stipend and health insurance. Students who remain actively engaged in full-time work leading towards degree requirements, will retain their student privileges (e.g. access to housing and other University facilities and medical insurance). PhD students are allowed a maximum of 7 years to complete all degree requirements. MD-PhD students are allowed a maximum of 6.5 years to complete all degree requirements.

## **i. Academic Disciplinary Action**

### ACADEMIC PROBATION AND DISMISSAL FROM PROGRAM

In situations where a student is not progressing in the graduate program, he or she may be placed on academic probation. The length of the probationary period will be determined by the Dean. The student should use this probationary time to rectify the specified deficiencies in his or her record. If the probationary period expires without adequate progress, the student may be asked to leave the program, or be suspended without pay until the deficiencies are rectified. Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to complete and/or pass course requirements
- Failure to write and/or receive approval for a thesis research proposal
- Inadequate progression of thesis research

### DISMISSAL FROM LAB

In the unusual event that an advisor wants a student to leave his or her lab, the following procedures will apply:

If the student has not submitted and defended a TRP, the student should look for another laboratory in which to conduct his or her thesis research.

If the student has already completed a successful TRP defense, and if the student wants to remain in the lab:

1. The student and advisor will first meet with the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Dean to address the issue.
2. In the event that a successful resolution cannot be attained, the student and advisor will meet with the Dean and the Graduate Program Advisory Committee. The final decision resides with the Dean.

## VI. Course Descriptions and Requirements

In addition to attending the mandatory Seminars on Modern Biology (about 20 two-hour sessions), Experiment & Theory in Modern Biology (about 12 two-hour sessions), the Statistics short course (about 9 two-hour sessions) and the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) seminars (on-line course work and four, 2 hour group meetings), students must satisfactorily complete seven units of coursework. One unit typically consists of 12 two to three-hour classes. Some courses consist of 24 classes and most of these count as 2 units. Evaluation of satisfactory course completion typically consists of a written or oral examination, or preparation of a short research review or proposal. Courses are grouped into 6 major areas (Biochemistry, Structural & Chemical Biology & Biophysics; Cell, Molecular & Developmental Biology; Genetics; Microbiology & Virology; Neurosciences; Bioinformatics, Mathematics and Programming), but students can complete the curriculum requirements by participation in any combination of courses, provided that courses that are particularly relevant to the intended area of thesis research are adequately represented. **Students must complete their curriculum requirements before the end of the second year**, although additional courses may be taken in later years.

### SEMINARS ON MODERN BIOLOGY

This series is designed to give the incoming class a chance to interact with faculty in an intensive series of twice-weekly two-hour seminars. Participation is mandatory for and limited to first-year PhD students. Participation is not required for MD-PhD or TPCB students, who will have participated in similar Tri-Institutional sessions. Each session runs from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday mornings. In each session, 2-3 faculty members survey their area of research, first with a formal half-hour presentation and then by participating in a student-led discussion.

### EXPERIMENT AND THEORY IN MODERN BIOLOGY

This course is designed to introduce first year PhD students to the methods and principles behind current biological research. Students will meet with the faculty organizers once a week to discuss pre-selected papers that illustrate methods of biological deduction. With guidance from the faculty mentors, students will present papers, discuss them, and formulate conclusions regarding the experimental results. By the end of the course, students should be able to critically read a scientific manuscript and to understand principles used in interpreting scientific data. There are no prerequisites for the course.

### STATISTICS: A SHORT COURSE

This course will prepare students to apply quantitative and statistical techniques to the analysis of experimental data. To emphasize both practical and theoretical skills, the course will involve hands-on exercises and homework using the GraphPad Prism program. Students will be well positioned to meet the emerging requirements of funding agencies for formally planned experiments and fully reproducible and documented data analysis methods. Specific topics include: graphical, mathematical and verbal communication of quantitative concepts; selection of appropriate statistical tests and the interpretation of their results; the design of appropriately sized experiments; the formulation, evaluation and analysis of mathematical models of biological function, with an emphasis on linear and non-linear regression, determination of model parameters; and the critical comparison of alternative models with regard to over-parameterization.

## RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR)

Rockefeller's RCR training course is provided in collaboration with neighboring Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College. The course heightens the awareness of trainees to ethical considerations relevant to the conduct of research, informs them of federal, state and institutional policies, regulations and procedures, and provides trainees with critical analysis and problem solving skills for ethical decision-making. The course is offered twice per year and is mandatory for all first year Rockefeller students.

## Overview of Courses in the Biological Sciences 2018-2020

Most courses are offered on a two-year cycle. Participation in a course requires students to attend all sessions. The most widely used format for courses consists of twelve sessions of two to four hours, comprising a lecture, discussions and review of relevant articles from the literature. Students desiring more information about course content and participation or qualification requirements are encouraged to approach the organizers.

2018-19	Fall	Winter	Spring
	<b>Bioinformatics</b> Carroll	<b>Cell Biology of Nuclear Processes</b> de Lange	<b>Genetics and Evolution</b> Cross/Kronauer
	<b>Experiment and Theory in Modern Biology</b> Shaham/Simon	<b>Cell Cycle Control</b> F. Cross/Funabiki	<b>Introduction to Programming for the Life Sciences</b> Syberg
	<b>Quantitative Understanding in Biology</b> Banfelder/Skrabaneck	<b>Cellular and Organismal Metabolism</b> Birsoy/Cohen	<b>Mammalian Genetics</b> Smogorzewska
	<b>Responsible Conduct of Research</b> Tri-Institutional Faculty	<b>Math Review for Biologists</b> Magnasco/Kidd	<b>Statistics: A Short Course</b> Banfelder/Skrabaneck
	<b>Seminars on Modern Biology</b> Rockefeller Faculty	<b>Science Diplomacy</b> Ausubel/Holford	<b>The Biology of Brain Disorders</b> Fischbach
		<b>Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience</b> Freiwald/Gilbert	<b>Virology (continued)</b> Rice/Bieniasz/Hatziioannou
		<b>Virology</b> Rice/Bieniasz/Hatziioannou	

2019-20	Fall	Winter	Spring and Summer
	<b>Biochemical and Biophysical Methods I</b> Alushin/Darst/Liu/Rout	<b>Cell Biology</b> Simon/Shaham	<b>Bioinformatics</b> Carroll
	<b>Chemical Biology</b> Kapoor	<b>Cellular and Organismal Metabolism</b> Birsoy/Cohen	<b>Biochemical and Biophysical Methods II</b> Alushin/Darst/Liu/Rout
	<b>Experiment and Theory in Modern Biology</b> Shaham/Simon	<b>CNS Development</b> Hatten	<b>Cell Biology (continued)</b> Simon/Shaham
	<b>Introduction to Programming for the Life Sciences</b> Syberg	<b>Science Diplomacy</b> Ausubel/Holford	<b>Genetics and Evolution</b> Cross/Kronauer
	<b>Molecular Basis of Cancer</b> Tavazoie		<b>Membrane Biophysics</b> Maimon/Ruta
	<b>Quantitative Understanding in Biology</b> Banfelder/Skrabaneck		<b>Microbial Pathogenesis</b> Marraffini
	<b>Responsible Conduct of Research</b> Tri-Institutional Faculty		<b>Social Evolution and Behavior</b> Kronauer
	<b>Seminars on Modern Biology</b> Rockefeller Faculty		<b>Statistics: A Short Course</b> Banfelder/Skrabaneck
	<b>Stem Cells in Tissue Morphogenesis and Cancer</b> Fuchs/Brivanlou		

Fall 2018: September 5 – December 21

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	Seminars on Modern Biology	Experiment and Theory in Modern Biology			
10					
11					
12	Bioinformatics		Seminars on Modern Biology		Bioinformatics
1					
2					
3		Responsible Conduct of Research		Quantitative Understanding in Biology	
4					
5					
6		Quantitative Understanding in Biology			

Winter 2018-2019: January 2 – March 22

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9		Virology Lecture 10-12	Math Review for Biologists Lectures	Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	
10					
11					
12	Cell Biology of Nuclear Processes	Lunch/Discussion 12-2	Cellular and Organismal Metabolism	Cell Cycle Control	
1					
2					
3		Math Review for Biologists Labs		Science Diplomacy	
4					
5					
6					

Spring 2019: March 25 – June 14

Hur	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9		Virology Lecture 10-12			
10					
11					
12	Mammalian Genetics	Lunch/Discussion 12-2	Introduction to Programming for the Life Sciences	Genetics and Evolution	
1					
2					
3		The Biology of Brain Disorders	Statistics Short-Course		
4					
5					
6					

Course descriptions are listed alphabetically within subject areas. The course unit value is indicated in parentheses. Participation in seminars, tutorials, journal clubs and minor courses for which no value is indicated cannot be used as part of the curriculum qualification.

## **Biochemistry, Structural & Chemical Biology & Biophysics**

### Biochemical and Biophysical Methods I & II (2 for each part)

Gregory Alushin, Seth Darst, Shixin Liu, Michael Rout

This course presents the fundamental principles of biochemistry and biophysics, with an emphasis on methodologies. In addition, case studies are discussed, examining how physical and chemical methods have been used to establish the molecular mechanisms of fundamental biological processes. The course is offered in two consecutive semesters. Part I introduces biological macromolecules and experimental tools for dissecting their three-dimensional structures and assembly principles. Part II covers methods aimed at delineating the conformational fluctuations, chemical turnovers, and kinetic trajectories of biological complexes at molecular, cellular, and evolutionary scales. There will be a two hour session biweekly. The recommended reading is *The Molecules of Life: Physical and Chemical Principles* by John Kuriyan et al.; *Molecular Biology of the Cell* by Bruce Alberts et al.; *Physical Biology of the Cell* by Rob Phillips et al. The method of evaluation will be a 5-minute oral presentation of a research proposal + 1-page written summary with specific aims for one semester; a 3-page written review of a chosen method for the other semester.

### Chemical Biology (1)

Tarun Kapoor

The spirit of this course is to explore the complexities of modern biology using the tools of chemistry. The lectures cover amino acid chemistry, nucleic acid chemistry, posttranslational modifications of proteins, discovery and use of chemical probes to examine cellular mechanisms, membrane chemistry, chemical tools for imaging, and natural product biosynthesis. The method of evaluation is class attendance, active participation in the discussions and exams (midterm and final).

## **Cell, Molecular & Developmental Biology**

### Cell Biology (2)

Sanford Simon and Shai Shaham

This is an advanced course covering major topics in modern cell biology, taught by faculty and visitors who are specialists in various disciplines of Cell Biology. A good knowledge of textbook cell biology is a prerequisite for effective participation. The course will be completed with an oral exam. Recommended text for cell biology: *Molecular Biology of the Cell* by Alberts et al., Garland Publishing, Inc. Recommended text for histology: *Basic Histology* by Junquera, Kaniero and Kelly, 2016 edition.

### Cell Cycle Control (1)

Frederick Cross and Hironori Funabiki

This seminar explores the current understanding of eukaryotic cell cycle control. Topics include the construction of a biochemical oscillator and overall structure of cell cycle control; positive and negative

control of DNA replication; spindle morphogenesis and function; chromosome cohesion control; surveillance mechanisms (checkpoints) monitoring spindle and DNA integrity; and control of proliferation (start/restriction point control). The seminar relies heavily on studies in model organisms, but the emphasis throughout will be on aspects of cell cycle control conserved among eukaryotes. The method of evaluation is class attendance, homework exercises and active participation in the discussions.

### Cellular and Organismal Metabolism (1)

Kivanc Birsoy and Paul Cohen

This course will cover fundamental aspects of cellular (biochemical pathways) and organismal metabolism, as well as exciting new applications of these pathways to diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cancer. Lectures will be given by the two course directors, as well as outside experts in the field. The format consists of a weekly, two hour lecture, followed by discussion.

The main prerequisite is an undergraduate biochemistry course. The required reading consists of a biochemistry textbook and discussion papers. Recommended texts are Biochemistry (Lehninger), Navigating Metabolism (Navdeep Chandel).

The method of evaluation will be classroom attendance, active participation in discussions, and presentations.

### Molecular Basis of Cancer (2)

Sohail Tavazoie

This course is designed to teach modern concepts in the regulation of growth control and its significance to cancer. The format consists of a weekly, two hour lecture followed by informal discussion over lunch. Each lecture will be accompanied by a review and a research article to be discussed at lunch. The required textbook is *The Biology of Cancer*, by Robert A. Weinberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Taylor and Francis, Inc., 2013. A reference list will be distributed at the first session. The method of evaluation is class attendance, active participation in the discussions and a take home final exam.

### Nuclear Cell Biology (2)

Titia de Lange

This course will be taught by Rockefeller faculty whose expertise covers the following subjects: Robert Roeder (transcription); David Allis (chromatin); Sohail Tavazoie (RNA processing and modification); Michael Rout (NE and NPCs); Frederick Cross (cell cycle control); Michael O'Donnell (DNA replication); Agata Smogorzewska (DNA repair); Titia de Lange (DNA damage response and telomeres); and Hironori Funabiki (chromosome segregation). The main prerequisite is a basic understanding of molecular biology and biochemistry. The methods of evaluation will include: course attendance, participation in discussions and a final, take-home exam.

### Stem Cells in Tissue Morphogenesis and Cancer (2)

Elaine Fuchs and Ali Brivanlou

This course aims to present and discuss key concepts in stem cell biology drawing on research from planaria, *Drosophila*, zebrafish, mouse and human. We will cover basic principles of stem cells from



self-renewal to tissue development, homeostasis, wound-repair and cancer. In addition to the basic lectures, there will be 6-7 guest speakers who are world renowned leaders in the field. Although these lectures will be open to the public, they will be geared towards students enrolled in the course. Following each of these lectures, speakers will lead a discussion with the class. Course credit will be awarded based upon participation in lectures and class discussions, as well as a written paper. Students are required to attend lectures and class.

## **Genetics**

### Genetics and Evolution (2)

Frederick Cross and Daniel Kronauer

This seminar covers the basic mechanisms of genetics and evolution including the generation of mutations and genetic segregation; linkage and recombination (with emphasis on linkage/segregation in eukaryotes). The course also considers changes in population genotypes when these basic genetic mechanisms are operating in the presence or absence of selective pressure. Changes in population genotypes can have effects ranging from polymorphism at neutral loci to the evolution of distinct species. Such changes are also used in historical analysis to trace migrations, evolution and coevolution in diverse biological contexts. The method of evaluation will be class attendance, homework exercises, and active participation in the discussions.

### Mammalian Genetics (1)

Agata Smogorzewska

This course covers genetics of bone marrow failure syndromes, cancer susceptibility, infectious diseases, obesity, diabetes, coronary heart disease, and neurodegenerative diseases. We will also discuss human gene mapping, disease modeling using mouse genetics, modern genetic tools including RNAi screening and genetic engineering using CRISPR, as well as ethical issues in modern human genetics. Performance in the course will be evaluated by class participation and a take home final exam.

## **Bioinformatics, Mathematics and Programming**

### Bioinformatics (2)

Thomas Carroll

In this course, we will be introduced to the analysis of high-throughput sequencing using R and Bioconductor. We will learn the fundamentals of data handling in R, review the standard high-throughput sequencing data types and manipulate this data using the Bioconductor R libraries. Following this, we will step through the processing and analysis of published RNA-seq, ChIP-seq and ATAC-seq data. The course has no prerequisites. Attendance for all sessions is required.

Class will meet for a 3 hour session, biweekly. The method of evaluation will be two weekly exercises on what is reviewed each week.

## Introduction to Programming for the Life Sciences (2)

Seth Syberg

In this course, students will learn how to write code in a single programming language. The course will focus primarily on learning to write general purpose programs in the Python programming language. Towards the end, students will also learn about shell scripting and the R programming language. The method of evaluation is class attendance, active participation in the discussions, programming exercises during class and a weekly programming challenge outside of class. Students who wish to take the course for credit must complete a final project.

## Math Review for Biologists (0)

Marcelo Magnasco and Philip Kidd

This is an intensive skill development course, starting with calculus and linear algebra and leading up to differential equations, Fourier transforms, and related computational methods for model simulation. A concurrent journal club explores the major historical papers as well as contemporary biological modeling papers proposed by the students in full line-by-line detail. The method of evaluation is weekly attendance, active participation in the class discussions and journal clubs.

## Quantitative Understanding in Biology (2)

Jason Banfelder and Luce Skrabanek

This course will prepare students to apply quantitative techniques to the analysis of experimental data. To emphasize both practical and theoretical skills, the course will involve several hands-on workshops, and the completion of several projects will be required. Students will be well positioned to meet the emerging requirements of funding agencies for formally planned experiments and fully reproducible and documented data analysis methods. Specific topics include: practical aspects of data formatting and management: graphical, mathematical and verbal communication of quantitative concepts; a review of statistics, with emphasis on the selection of appropriate statistical tests, the use of modern software packages, the interpretation of results, and the design of experiments; the formulation, evaluation and analysis of mathematical models of biological function, with an emphasis on linear and non-linear regression, determination of model parameters, and the critical comparison of alternative models with regard to over-parameterization. Grades will be determined based on several take-home problem sets, and a midterm and final exam.

## **Microbiology & Virology**

### Microbial Pathogenesis (2)

Luciano Marraffini

Infectious diseases continue to be a leading cause of human morbidity and mortality worldwide as well as an important cause of economic loss and the 'poverty trap' in developing countries. Microbial Pathogenesis focuses on the molecular mechanisms of host-pathogen interactions and pathogenesis of representative bacterial, fungal and protozoan diseases. Topics include malaria, trypanosomiasis, toxoplasmosis, selected gram-negative and gram-positive bacterial infections, pathogenic mycobacteria, opportunistic mycoses, the evolution of pathogenicity and the impact of the host microbiota during microbial pathogenesis, and the development of antimicrobials and vaccines. The

course is taught by Rockefeller and Cornell faculty and selected guest speakers. Each class includes a lecture followed by an in-depth discussion of assigned papers with the lecturer. The discussion can be continued at lunch with the speaker.

Each class includes a lecture, followed by one or two (depending on the number of students) 20- minute presentations by students on a paper suggested by the speaker in which they outline follow-up experiments. Lunch with the speaker follows for a set of interested students.

Course requirements include attendance, participation in the discussions, individual presentations and a three page research proposal at the end of the course.

### Virology (2)

Charles Rice, Paul Bieniasz and Theodora Hatzioannou

In this course, Rockefeller faculty and selected visitors give lectures and lead discussions about virology with major emphasis on the cellular and molecular biology of animal viruses. Topics include virus structure, replication, molecular genetics and gene expression, interactions with host cells, immunology, pathogenesis, viral vaccines, antiviral therapy and resistance. A number of model systems are discussed, including cytotoxic, steady-state and tumorigenic virus-cell interactions. Session- specific papers will provide background material and topics for discussion at the weekly journal clubs. Course requirements include class attendance, active participation in the discussions, presentations during journal club and a written grant proposal.

## **Neurosciences**

### CNS Development (1)

Mary Beth Hatten

This course focuses on the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying the development of the nervous system. Topics include the evolution of the nervous system, specification of neural cell types, cortical histogenesis, the formation of neural circuits and mechanisms underlying behavior. The course also considers the molecular genetics of human neuro-developmental disorders.

### Membrane Biophysics (2)

Gaby Maimon and Vanessa Ruta

This intensive six-week course consists of 16 two-hour lectures and 5 all day labs. The course starts with an introduction to electrochemical dynamics. It then delves into cellular and molecular biophysics of plasma membranes, with a focus on excitable membranes. Topics covered include gating, conduction and selectivity of ion channels, mechanism of function of membrane pumps, and the origin of action potentials in neuronal and cardiac membranes. The course ends with a discussion of neuronal communication at synapses and biophysical explorations of sensory functions, like vision, hearing and olfaction. The all-day laboratories are meant to expose students to modern and classic preparations regarding cellular and molecular electrophysiology. Labs can accommodate up to 16 students. Course requirements include weekly attendance, active participation in the class discussions and labs.

## Social Evolution and Behavior (2)

Daniel Kronauer

This intensive one week course held at The Rockefeller University Center for Field Research in Millbrook, NY will include lectures, workshops, paper discussions, student presentations and field outings. The course will explore complex questions from a variety of angles including genetics, behavioral ecology, ethology, neuroscience, as well as evolutionary and theoretical biology. It will cover a broad range of biological systems, ranging from single genetic elements, social microbes, insects and vertebrates, to mutualistic interactions between species. Course requirements include active participation in the discussions, student presentations and hands on workshops.

## Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience (2)

Winrich Freiwald and Charles Gilbert

Why do we see the world the way we do? How do we act in it? How do we choose what to do, how do we remember, feel, and think? These are some of the questions the systems and cognitive neurosciences aim to answer by finding descriptions of neurons, neural circuits, and larger-scale systems whose activity and functional architecture can explain behavior. We will cover a wide range of topics, systems, and approaches including mechanisms of information processing; functional architecture and dynamics of neural circuits; synaptic plasticity and functional specificity; learning and memory; attention; emotion; and higher-level cognitive functions. We will meet once a week for intense discussions and hands-on exercises based on research papers and tutorials of twelve major topics. The focus will be on the mammalian brain. Familiarity with fundamental neuroscience at the level of standard textbook like Kandel, Schwartz, Jessel is expected and a prerequisite for course participation. Suggested readings for the course will be provided.

## The Biology of Brain Disorders (1)

Gerald Fischbach

This course emphasizes the biological and behavioral underpinnings of common neurological and psychiatric disorders. Subjects include: Disorders of Excitation and Conduction (epilepsy, multiple sclerosis); Perception, Cognition and Memory (autism, schizophrenia, Alzheimers disease); Consciousness (coma, persistent vegetative state); Mood (depression, anxiety); Motivation (addiction); Sensation (pain); Motor Control (Parkinsons disease, ataxia); Trauma (brain/spinal cord injury; stroke). The course meets once a week for 2 hours and consists of introductory remarks, followed by brief student presentations and open discussion based on assigned readings. Each student will be asked to write a speculative paper relating a disordered trait to a specific brain circuit.

## **General**

### CSHL and MBL (1)

One unit of graduate credit will be granted for courses taken at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) and the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole (MBL). In order to qualify for credit, the course must meet for a minimum of 2 weeks (a week being defined as 40+ hours of lecture/lab work) and the Dean's Office must receive written evaluation of the student's performance from the course instructor. A student may only receive credit for one CSHL or MBL course during his/her tenure as a graduate student. Courses at institutions other than CSHL or MBL will be evaluated for credit on a

case by case basis.

### Science Diplomacy: Thinking Globally about the Biological and Medical Fields (O)

Jesse Ausubel and Mande Holford

The shorthand term 'Science Diplomacy' spans wide-ranging activities connecting science and technology with international affairs. With an emphasis on global health and medicine, this course considers the larger context of dealing with nations in conflict, the role of finance, women and technology in development, innovation in the public and private sectors, and views of Science Diplomacy from outside the United States. This six week course of seminars will sample the current landscape of Science Diplomacy issues, programs, and organizations. The goals of the course are to help early career biomedical scientists: (a) think more systematically about the global potential of their work, including ethical, political, and economic implications and (b) become acquainted with the people, networks, and resources available for scientific cooperation involving nations with whom cooperation may be especially difficult. As a conclusion to the course, clusters of participants will be challenged to develop a concept or proposal for a Science Diplomacy activity that connects importantly to their own current research and interests. Ten of the most engaged students will be invited to join a field trip in March to Washington, DC to meet with prominent Science Diplomacy practitioners and tour relevant institutions.

### Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

Comparative Bioscience Center (CBC) staff  
Call x8642 for schedule information.

This seminar introduces the student to federal and state regulations and NIH policy governing the use of laboratory animals in research. Instruction is also offered on preparation of a protocol for approval of animal use, resources available at the CBC, aseptic technique, anesthesia, euthanasia, and common zoonotic diseases. Once a student attends this course, key card access to the facility is approved. Announcements for upcoming hands-on animal training events are posted on the bulletin board outside the CBC first floor elevator.

### Conversational English

Tom Pallo

Through the Dean's Office, a conversational English program is offered in an informal setting to Rockefeller PhD students and postdocs (spouses are also welcome). The focus is on accent reduction, vocabulary expansion, and acquisition of idiomatic expressions. The Tuesday class is for intermediate students and Thursday is a more advanced class. New students are asked to first attend the Tuesday class. Both classes meet in CRC Room 406 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Contact Tom Pallo for more information: (212) 316-2254; [TomPalloNYC@aol.com](mailto:TomPalloNYC@aol.com)).

## VII. Policies, Procedures, and Rules

### a. Standard of Conduct

Students are expected to be knowledgeable of and comply with the rules and regulations in the Graduate Student Guide, as well as the Human Resources Handbook. The University strives to maintain an atmosphere in which freedom of expression, intellectual inquiry and mutual respect are valued. Students, in accepting admission to the graduate program, agree to act responsibly and respectfully of the Rockefeller University community and all of its individual members. Students whose behavior, whether it is on- or off-campus, is considered detrimental to the University community are subject to disciplinary action. The University is required to deal fairly and decently with each individual.

### b. Policy for the Prevention of and Response to Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, and Stalking

#### (POLICY UNDER TITLE IX AND N.Y. EDUCATION LAW ARTICLE 129-B)

To the extent that this Policy overlaps with the University's Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy, this Policy will control in cases involving sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking involving a student.

#### POLICY STATEMENT

The Rockefeller University (the "University") is committed to maintaining an educational environment for its students that is free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking. The University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, in compliance with the law, including Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972 and Article 129-B of the N.Y. Education Law.

The University strongly encourages every member of our community who is a victim of, or has knowledge of, sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking involving a student to report that conduct as set forth below. The University is committed to responding to such reports promptly, with sensitivity for all concerned, and with fair and equitable process.

#### CONTROLLING LAW

Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., provides:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

The federal government has determined that sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence may create a "hostile environment," thereby denying a victim of such conduct the benefits of an education program or activity.

Article 129-B of the N.Y. Education Law also provides protections for students who are the victims of sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking, including the right to report the incident to the

University or law enforcement, to be protected by the University from retaliation for reporting an incident, and to receive assistance and resources from the University.

## DEFINITIONS

**Affirmative Consent** is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Consent may be given initially but withdrawn at any time, and consent to one sexual act does not necessarily constitute consent to any other sexual act. Consent is required regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Consent cannot be given by a person who is incapacitated, which occurs when an individual lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity, and consent cannot be given when it is the result of any coercion. When consent is withdrawn or can no longer be given, sexual activity must stop.

A **Hostile Environment** is created when prohibited conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to limit or deny a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the University's educational programs or activities.

**Relationship Violence**, including dating violence and domestic violence, is a pattern of behavior in which an individual uses physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation, or other forms of emotional, sexual, verbal, and/or economic abuse to control his or her current or former intimate partner.

A **Responsible Employee** is an employee who has the authority to take action to redress conduct prohibited under this Policy, or who has a duty to report such conduct to the Title IX Coordinator, or who a student could reasonably believe has this authority or responsibility. Responsible Employees include: Heads of Laboratories (who may be HHMI employees); the Department Heads of the Dean's Office, Human Resources, Office of General Counsel, Housing, and Security; and from the Dean's Office, Emily Harms, Senior Associate Dean; Andrea Morris, Director of Career and Professional Development; Marta Delgado, Senior Graduate Program Administrator of Finance and Student Affairs; and Kristen Cullen, Graduate Admissions Administrator and Registrar.

**Sex Discrimination** is conduct towards an individual, based upon that individual's sex, gender, or sexual orientation, that denies the individual the benefits of, treats the individual differently, or otherwise adversely affects a term or condition of an individual's employment, education, living environment, or participation in a University program or activity.

**Sexual Harassment** is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. It may include, but is not limited to: unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes or innuendoes; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess, or sexual deficiencies; leering or catcalls; inappropriate touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display or circulation (including through email) in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; or other physical, verbal, or visual conduct of a sexual nature that has the effect of creating a hostile environment.

**Sexual Violence** or sexual assault is an actual or attempted physical sexual act performed against a person's will or without a person's affirmative consent, including where the person is incapable of giving consent due to a disability or the use of drugs and/or alcohol.

**Stalking** is when a person engages in a course of conduct toward another person under circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily injury or experience substantial emotional distress. Course of conduct means two or more acts including but not limited to unwelcome acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, and/or communicates with a person, or interferes with a person's property. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish. The definition includes cyber-stalking, a particular form of stalking in which electronic media such as the internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, and/or other similar devices or forms of contact are used.

The **Alleged Victim** as used in this policy refers to a student who is a victim of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking by an **Accused**. A **Complainant** is an alleged victim who reports such conduct to the Title IX Coordinator or a responsible employee. A **Reporting Individual** is an individual who reports a violation and may be a Complainant or another individual.

## INDIVIDUALS AND CONDUCT COVERED

This Policy covers any occurrence of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking involving a student, regardless of whether the accused is a student, employee, or third party, or whether the prohibited conduct occurred on or off campus. The University must address reported sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, or stalking involving a student whether the report (oral or written) is made by the alleged victim or a reporting individual other than the alleged victim.

The University also must ensure that a student who is the victim of sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking is afforded the protections outlined in the Students' Bill of Rights Relating to Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, and/or Stalking, including the right to make a report to local law enforcement and to be protected from retaliation. (See Bill of Rights at the end of this Policy.)

## THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR

The Rockefeller University has designated as its Title IX Coordinator Virginia Huffman, Vice President, Human Resources. Virginia Huffman's contact information is: Founders Hall, Room 103; tel: 212-327-7261; email: [huffman@rockefeller.edu](mailto:huffman@rockefeller.edu).

The Title IX Coordinator oversees implementation of this University Policy and must be informed of all reports and complaints of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking involving a student, even if the report or complaint was initially made to another individual or if the investigation will be conducted by another individual or office.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for:

- Activating the University's Title IX fact-finding, hearing, and determination procedures;
- Evaluating confidentiality requests;
- Conducting and/or managing an investigation and appeal, including designating other University employees or third parties to assist, as needed;



- Determining appropriate interim measures for a complainant and the accused, including providing support and counseling resources, and taking steps to protect public safety during the course of an investigation;
- Determining appropriate sanctions against an individual who has been found to have violated this Policy and remedies for the complainant;
- Enforcing sanctions with the assistance of University administrative leadership; and
- Recommending changes to University policies or procedures, as needed.

## PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Privacy will be maintained throughout the investigation of a complaint or report of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking, consistent with reasonable investigation and appropriate corrective action. Certain University personnel (including responsible employees), because of their duty to report conduct prohibited under this Policy to the Title IX Coordinator or take action to redress such conduct, cannot guarantee confidentiality but will maintain the privacy of the complainant or reporting individual, to the greatest extent possible. These University personnel will share a complaint or report only as necessary for the Title IX Coordinator to investigate and/or seek a resolution and, if required, with law enforcement.

A complainant may request (1) that his or her name not be revealed to the accused, and/or (2) that the University not investigate or take action. The University will strongly support such a request, although honoring the request may limit the University's ability to investigate and respond fully to the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will determine whether the University can honor a request for confidentiality by a complainant or a reporting individual while still providing a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students. A request not to investigate or take action may not be honored if such action might put other individuals at risk. Factors to consider in determining whether to honor a request include whether: (a) the accused has a history of violent behavior or is a repeat offender; (b) the incident represents an escalation in unlawful conduct on behalf of the accused from previously noted behavior; (c) there is an increased risk that the accused will commit additional acts of violence; (d) the accused used a weapon or force; (e) the reporting individual is a minor; and (f) the University has other means to obtain evidence such as security footage, and (g) that information reveals a pattern of perpetration at a given location or by a particular group. If the University determines that an investigation is required, it will notify the complainant and take immediate action as necessary to protect or assist the complainant.

Certain individuals are confidential resources and will maintain the confidentiality of information provided to them by a complainant, accused, or reporting individual. Confidential resources under this Policy are: licensed mental health counselors, advocates, and health care professionals, including those at the University's Occupational Health Services. These confidential resources are not required or permitted to disclose any identifying information regarding an incident under this Policy to any outside party, including other individuals at the University, unless the person who provided information to them has consented to disclosure. If the accused is a University employee, the complainant may notify the University's Human Resources and/or has the right to request that a confidential resource assist in reporting to the Title IX Coordinator.

If an individual wishes to make an anonymous report, the below hotlines are completely confidential and available at all times (24 hours/7 days per week):

- New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline: 800-942-6906;
- New York State Office of Victim Services: 800-247-8035 or [www.ovs.ny.gov](http://www.ovs.ny.gov); and

- Safe Horizon's Rape/Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-621-HOPE (4673).

## PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

A complaint or report under this Policy should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator. Complaints or reports also may be reported to the University's Director of Security, James K. Rogers (Nurses Residence, 1st Floor; tel: 212-327-7339; email: [jrogers@rockefeller.edu](mailto:jrogers@rockefeller.edu)), who will provide the complaint or report to the Title IX Coordinator. Responsible Employees have an obligation to notify the Title IX Coordinator of any complaints or reports under this Policy.

If the complainant and the accused voluntarily agree to participate in an informal process, such as a mediation, and the University determines that an informal process is appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator may assist the complainant and the accused to reach a voluntary resolution. The complainant will not be required to resolve the problem directly with the accused and may end the informal process at any time.

A complainant has the right to file a criminal complaint at any time, before, during, or after (i) reporting a Title IX complaint, or (ii) activating the University's internal Title IX investigation or appeal process.

An impartial and equitable investigation of a complaint or report under this Policy will be undertaken, taking into consideration any request by the complainant or reporting individual for confidentiality, in accordance with the following procedures:

1. The investigation may include fact-finding, a hearing, where appropriate, and any other decision-making processes useful in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking occurred and created a hostile environment.
  - a. During the course of the investigation, the complainant and the accused must be afforded a meaningful opportunity to be heard and have the same opportunities:
    - i. to receive written or electronic notice of any meeting they are required to or are eligible to attend;
    - ii. to receive written or electronic notice setting forth the date, time, location, and factual allegations concerning the violation (as alleged by a complainant or a reporting individual); a reference to the specific University policy alleged to have been violated; and sanctions that may be imposed;
    - iii. to present witnesses and evidence;
    - iv. to timely receive from the University relevant information that will be used in the investigation process;
    - v. to attend any hearings, although the complainant and the accused will not be required to be in the same room at the same time and will not be permitted to directly cross-examine each other; and
    - vi. to make an impact statement at the point of the investigation process where the decision maker is deliberating on appropriate sanctions.

- b. Throughout the investigative process (and appeal, if any), the complainant and the accused each may seek the advice of an advisor (or personal attorney), who may be present during any fact-finding process, including a hearing, but may not pose questions to or respond to questions for the complainant or the accused.
    - c. The applicable legal standard used in resolving the complaint is a “preponderance of the evidence,” which means that the finder(s) of fact concludes that it is more likely than not that conduct in violation of this Policy occurred (or did not occur).
  2. Prior to and during an investigation, the University will promptly take interim steps to ensure equal access to its education programs and activities and protect the complainant, as necessary, from the alleged conduct.
  3. The complainant and the accused also should receive periodic updates on the status of an investigation.
  4. The complainant and the accused will be notified simultaneously in writing of the outcome of the investigation and the rationale for the outcome, as follows:
    - a. The complainant must be informed of whether the investigation resulted in a finding that the alleged conduct occurred and, if so, any remedies offered to the complainant, sanctions imposed on the offender as a consequence of the findings, with the rationale for the sanctions, and efforts by the University to eliminate any hostile environment and prevent its recurrence.
    - b. The accused should be notified of the same information as the complainant, but not information regarding any remedies offered to the complainant.
  5. The investigative and decision-making activities described above should be completed in a timely manner and if practicable, within sixty (60) calendar days of a complaint being received by the Title IX Coordinator.
  6. The complainant and the accused may appeal the outcome of an investigation. The exclusive grounds on which an appeal may be submitted are the following: (a) a violation of relevant University procedures that significantly affected the outcome; (b) the discovery, after the outcome, of relevant evidence that would significantly affect the outcome and that was previously unavailable despite diligent efforts to obtain such evidence; or (c) sanction(s) that are substantially disproportionate to the findings. An appeal is not a new fact-finding process. An appeal should be initiated promptly, and in any event within ten (10) calendar days of the issuance of notice of the outcome, following an investigation. The appeal must be in writing, set forth the grounds and supporting facts for the appeal, and be received by the Title IX Coordinator within the applicable ten (10) calendar day period. The appeal will be considered by an appeal panel. The same process will be followed whether the complainant or the accused seeks to appeal; the appeal process will be completed in a timely manner and if practicable, within sixty (60) calendar days from the Title IX Coordinator’s receipt of an appeal; and both parties will be notified in writing of the outcome of the appeal.
  7. The University will undertake any necessary actions to eliminate any hostile environment and prevent the recurrence of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking.

## RETALIATION IS PROHIBITED

The Rockefeller University prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking, or participates in an investigation of such report. Retaliation against such individual will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **AMNESTY POLICY FOR ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUG USE BY REPORTING INDIVIDUALS**

The health and safety of every student at the University is of utmost importance. The University recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that violence, including but not limited to sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking, occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. The University strongly encourages students to report sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking to University officials. A bystander or a complainant who acting in good faith reports or discloses any incident of sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking to University officials or law enforcement will not be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the University's Substance Abuse Policy occurring at or near the time of the commission of the reported incident.

### **UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS RELATING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE, RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE, AND/OR STALKING**

All University students have the right to:

1. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police;
2. Have disclosures of sexual violence, including domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault, treated seriously;
3. Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime and/or violation and to participate in the University's investigation, hearing, and/or decision-making process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by the University;
4. Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
5. Be treated with dignity and receive from the University courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available;
6. Be free from any suggestion that the complainant or reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and/or violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes and/or violations;
7. Describe the incident to as few University representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
8. Be protected from retaliation by the University, any University employee, personnel, and/or student; and/or the accused and/or their friends, family, and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the University;
9. Have access to at least one level of appeal of a determination;
10. Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a complainant, reporting individual, or accused throughout the investigation, hearing, and/or decision-making process, including during all meetings and hearings related to such process; and

11. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigation, hearing, and/or decision-making process of the University.

Additional information and guidance concerning these rights and implementing procedures is set forth in the attached University's Guidelines and Implementing Procedures.

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Questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator or to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## GUIDELINES AND IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES

These guidelines and implementing procedures provide additional information and guidance concerning University students' rights and the University's procedure for responding to complaints or reports under the attached Policy, available resources, protections and accommodations, procedural rights, and sanctions.

### Response to Complaints or Reports

In addition to the rights set forth in the Policy, a University student who has been a victim of sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking has the right to:

- Notify University security and/or local law enforcement about the incident;
- Have emergency access to the Title IX Coordinator (Virginia Huffman) and/or the Director of Security (James K. Rogers). Contact information for these individuals is as follows:

Virginia Huffman Title IX Coordinator Vice President, Human Resources	Founders Hall, Rm 103 Tel: 212-327-7261 Email: <a href="mailto:huffman@rockefeller.edu">huffman@rockefeller.edu</a>
James K. Rogers Director of Security	Nurses Residence, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Tel: 212-327-7339 Email: <a href="mailto:jrogers@rockefeller.edu">jrogers@rockefeller.edu</a>

These individuals will offer information about a student's rights and options for proceeding, available resources and assistance, and where applicable, the importance of preserving evidence and obtaining a sexual assault forensic examination as soon as possible. These individuals will explain that they can offer the student privacy, if not confidentiality, and will inform the student of other reporting options. They will also offer a student information and assistance with filing a report, and will advise that the criminal justice process utilizes different standards of proof and evidence than the University's investigation process. Questions about whether a specific incident violated the State's criminal law should be addressed to law enforcement or the district attorney;

- File a report of sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking with the University. Reports will be investigated in accordance with the Policy;
- Receive assistance from the Director of Security (James Rogers) or his designee in initiating legal proceedings in family court or civil court; and

- Request, at any time, the withdrawal of a complaint or further involvement with the University's investigation process.

The following information will be given to a reporting individual at the first instance of disclosure of sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking:

You have the right to make a report to University Security, local law enforcement, and/or state police; or choose not to report; to report the incident to the University; to be protected by the University from retaliation for reporting an incident; and to receive assistance and resources from the University.

It should be noted that if an individual discloses information through a public awareness event, such as candlelight vigils, protests, or other public event, the University is not required to begin an investigation based on such information (unless requested to do so by the individual), although the University may use the information to inform its education and prevention efforts.

### **Resources Available to University Students**

It is important for a victim of sexual violence to seek immediate and appropriate medical assistance and treatment as needed. In the course of treatment, it is important to preserve evidence that may be necessary to prove the reported conduct occurred or to obtain an order of protection.

The University's on-campus Occupational Health Service (OHS) is available free of charge to all University students.

- OHS is staffed by nurse practitioners and a certified occupational health nurse who offer confidential, basic medical advice, or first aid care when such treatment is necessary in advance of a student receiving private medical attention.
- OHS also has on-campus a Weill Cornell Medicine psychiatrist who offers confidential counseling and help in finding appropriate mental health care providers within the University's healthcare networks.

OHS is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located in The Rockefeller University Hospital, Room 118; tel: 212-327-8214. While OHS staff are unable to perform procedures related to the collection of evidence for the purpose of pursuing a criminal action, they can provide assistance and support when an individual requests or requires transportation to a full service hospital.

Across the street from the University is New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medicine, which has a New York State-designated Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Program and provides specialized care to victims of sexual assault or sexual violence.

In addition, the Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC) is available free of charge to all University students. EAPC is a confidential, short-term counseling and referral service that is equipped to provide various support services, including short-term therapy and crisis intervention. EAPC counselors are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The EAPC is located at 409 East 60th Street, Room 3-305, New York, NY 10022; tel: 212-746-5890. See <http://youreapc.us/Services.shtml> for more information.

Additional information about sexually transmitted infections, sexual assault forensic examinations, and resources available to victims of sexual violence may be found on the New York State Department of Health website at: [https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/sexual\\_violence/](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/sexual_violence/); and by contacting The

New York State Office of Victim Services: tel: 800-247-8035 or [www.ovs.ny.gov](http://www.ovs.ny.gov).

## University Protections and Accommodations for Its Students

The University may offer any of the following protections and accommodations, as appropriate, to a University student who has been a victim or accused of sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking:

- No Contact Order: When the accused is a student, the University may issue and provide a copy of a “no contact order” to the victim and the accused whereby continued intentional contact with the victim would be a violation of University policy and thus, subject to additional disciplinary action. If the accused and victim observe each other in a public place, the accused will be responsible for leaving the area immediately and without directly contacting the victim.
- Assistance Obtaining an Order of Protection: A student may request that the University's Director of Security or other appropriate University representative assist the student in obtaining a court order of protection and/or explain to the student the order and the consequences of violating the order. The University will provide to the student, a copy of the court order of protection when received by the University. University Security shall assist local law enforcement, if necessary, in effecting an arrest for violation of an order of protection.
- Interim Sanctions: When the accused is determined to present a continuing threat to the health and safety of the University community, the University may institute an interim suspension, as appropriate, pending the outcome of the University's investigation or appeal process (or local law enforcement's investigation) and in accordance with other rules and policies of the University, including the University's Grievance Procedures and the Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy.
- Interim Accommodations: The University may provide reasonable interim measures and accommodations to the victim and/or the accused that effect a change in academic, housing, employment, transportation, or other applicable arrangements in order to help ensure safety, prevent retaliation, and avoid an ongoing hostile environment.

A University student who is a victim or an accused may (i) request any of the above protections or accommodations, (ii) request to be afforded a reasonably prompt review by the Title IX Coordinator or his/her designee of the need for and terms of any of the above protections or accommodations (even if the victim does not file or continue to pursue a complaint), including potential modification, and (iii) will be allowed to submit evidence in support or defense of the request. The Title IX Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating with appropriate offices on campus to implement appropriate measures.

## Procedural Rights

In addition to the procedural rights set forth in the Policy, a student who has been the victim of, or has been accused of, a violation of the Policy has a right to:

- Have access to a full and fair record of any hearing, and have the record be preserved for at least five years from the date of such a hearing;
- Have access to a fair and impartial appeal panel's review of the determination;

- Have the University's investigation or appeal process occur concurrently with a criminal justice investigation and proceeding if a criminal complaint was filed, except for temporary delays requested by local law enforcement to gather evidence;
- Exclude her/his own prior sexual history with persons other than the accused or her/his own mental health diagnosis and/or treatment from the University's investigation or appeal process. However, past findings of sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking may be admissible in determining sanctions; and
- Choose whether to disclose or discuss the outcome of the University's investigation or appeal process, except that all information obtained during the course of the investigation or appeal process must be protected from public release until a final appellate determination has been made, unless otherwise required by law.

## **Sanctions**

Sanctions against an individual found to have violated the University's Policy may include, for example: training; referral to counseling; monitoring of the offender; warning or reprimand; suspension or expulsion (in the case of a student offender); or withholding of a promotion or pay increase, reduction of wages, demotion, reassignment, suspension, or termination (in the case of an employee offender).

For crimes of sexual violence, the University will make a notation on the transcript of students found responsible for a violation pursuant to the University's investigation and appeal process that the student was "suspended after a finding of responsibility for a code of conduct violation" or "expelled after a finding of responsibility for a code of conduct violation", as appropriate. For an accused who withdraws from the University while such conduct charges are pending, and declines to complete the investigation process, the University will make a notation on the transcript of such students that they "withdrew with conduct charges pending." Such notation will not be removed prior to one year after conclusion of the suspension, while notations for expulsion will not be removed. If a finding of a violation of University Policy is vacated for any reason, any such transcript notation will be removed.

Policy adopted by EOG on September 29, 2015, updated February 2016, as amended on December 18, 2017 and February 26, 2018.

## **c. Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking and Bias-Related Crime Policies and Procedures**

Issued in compliance with Article 129-A of the New York State Education Law.

### **I. Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Stalking**

#### **What is Sexual Assault?**

Sexual assault is defined as any unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature perpetrated against another person. It is usually associated with rape, but the definition is much broader. It includes vaginal, anal, or oral penetration, out of place touching, rape, attempted rape and child molestation. Sexual assault can also be verbal, visual or anything that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention.

#### **Applicable Laws and Penalties for Commission of Sex Offenses**

Article 130 of the New York State Law contains the following legal provisions defining crimes related



to sexual assault:

**Section 130.20 - Sexual Misconduct.** This offense includes sexual intercourse without consent and deviate sexual intercourse without consent. The penalty for violation of this section includes imprisonment for a definite period to be fixed by the court up to one year.

**Section 130.25/.30/.35 - Rape.** This series of offenses includes sexual intercourse with a person incapable of consent because of the use of forcible compulsion or because the person is incapable of consent due to a mental defect, mental incapacity or physical helplessness. This series of offenses further includes sexual intercourse with a person under the age of consent. The penalties for violation of these sections range from imprisonment for a period not to exceed four years up to imprisonment for a period not to exceed 25 years.

**Section 130.40/.45/.50 - Criminal Sexual Act.** This series of offenses includes oral or anal sexual conduct with a person incapable of consent because of the use of forcible compulsion or because the person is incapable of consent due to a mental defect, mental incapacity or physical helplessness. This series of offenses further includes oral or anal conduct with a person under the age of consent. The penalties for violation of these sections range from imprisonment for a period not to exceed four years up to imprisonment for a period not to exceed 25 years.

**Section 130.52 - Forcible Touching.** This offense involves the forcible touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of another person for the purpose of degrading or abusing such person; or for the purpose of gratifying the actor's sexual desires. Forcible touching includes the squeezing, grabbing, or pinching of another person's sexual or other intimate parts. The penalty for violation of this section includes imprisonment for a period of up to one year in jail.

**Section 130.55/.60/.65 - Sexual Abuse.** This series of offenses includes sexual contact with a person by forcible compulsion, or with a person who is incapable of consent due to physical helplessness, or due to a person being under the age of consent. The penalties for violation of these sections range from imprisonment for a period not to exceed three months up to imprisonment for a period not to exceed seven years.

**Section 130.65-a/.66/.67/.70 - Aggravated Sexual Abuse.** This series of offenses occurs when a person inserts a finger or foreign object in the vagina, urethra, penis or rectum of another person by forcible compulsion, when the other person is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless, or when the other person is under the age of consent. The level of this offense is enhanced if the insertion of a finger or foreign object causes injury to the other person. The penalties for violation of these sections range from imprisonment for a period not to exceed seven years up to imprisonment for a period not to exceed 25 years.

**Section 130.90 - Facilitating a Sex Offense with a Controlled Substance.** This offense involves knowingly and unlawfully possessing a controlled substance or any preparation, compound, mixture or substance that requires a prescription to obtain, and administering said substance to another person without such person's consent and with intent to commit against such person a sex offense. Facilitating a sex offense with a controlled substance is a class D felony.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and as such is specifically prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's performance or which creates a hostile or intimidating environment. Examples of sexual harassment range from remarks and joking to actual

sexual relations. For information about The Rockefeller University's Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy, please refer to the University Policies handbook: [https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR\\_UNIVPOLICIES\\_pdf](https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR_UNIVPOLICIES_pdf).

### **Prevention**

Most sexual assaults are not committed by strangers. Students are in greater danger of being sexually assaulted by someone they know than by a stranger.

Safety tips from the NYC Police Department:

- Follow your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable about a location or a person, leave immediately.
- Learn to notice details about people. This helps in giving a good description (e.g. a person's coloring; size; hairstyle; facial hair; scars; tattoos; accent; clothing, etc.)
- Always know your location! If you must call 911, the operator must know the exact location of the emergency.
- Rehearse what action you should take if you were to be confronted. There is no right or wrong way to respond to a sexual attack. Each offender and circumstance may be different. Whether to resist an attacker or not can only be your decision.
- You should become knowledgeable about your neighborhood. Where is the nearest police precinct? Which stores, restaurant, businesses are open late at night? Where is the location of the nearest telephone?

### **Domestic Violence / Dating Violence**

#### **What is Domestic Violence?**

Domestic violence can involve a single incident or pattern of abusive behavior, committed by a current (or former) spouse or intimate partner, to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. It can involve the use of physical violence, psychological actions or threats of actions, or other forms of emotional, verbal, sexual or economic abuse that influence another person. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are currently (or were formerly) married, living together, or dating. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

#### **What is Dating Violence?**

Dating violence can involve a single incident or pattern of abusive behavior, in any relationship, used by one individual to gain or maintain power and control over another. Dating violence can involve the use of physical violence, psychological actions or threats of actions, or other forms of emotional, verbal, sexual or economic abuse directed at an individual who is, or has been, in a romantic relationship with the perpetrator. Dating violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can include any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

### **Applicable Laws and Penalties for the Commission of Domestic Violence / Dating Violence Related Crimes**

#### **New York Domestic Violence Statutes**

**N.Y. FCT. LAW § 812 : NY Code - Section 812** – This section outlines the procedures for family (domestic) offense proceedings.

**N.Y. CPL. LAW § 530.12 : NY Code - Section 530.12** – This section of Criminal Procedure Law provides protection for victims of family offenses. It authorizes criminal courts to issue orders of protection when a criminal action is pending involving a complaint charging any crime or violation between family members, or for “good cause,” or upon a conviction in a case in which an order of protection had been issued. Typically, orders of protection are issued in cases involving allegations of domestic violence, harassment, rape, or assault, and they direct the accused defendants to abide by an order of protection in favor of the complaining witness or victim.

**Article 120 of the New York State Law contains the following legal provisions defining crimes related to domestic violence:**

**Section 120.00/.05/.10 - Assault.** This series of offenses includes the intentional or reckless causing of physical injury to another person or to a third party. This series of offenses further includes the causing of physical injury to another person due to criminal negligence (by means of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument). The penalties for violation of these sections are a class A misdemeanor, a class D felony and a class B felony, respectively.

**Section 120.13/.14/.15 - Menacing.** This series of offenses includes engaging in a course of conduct (or repeatedly committing acts) over a period of time that intentionally place or attempt to place another person in reasonable fear or physical injury, serious physical injury or death. This series of offenses further includes repeatedly following a person and the intentional placement or attempt to place another person in reasonable fear of physical injury, serious physical injury, or death by displaying a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument. The penalties for violation of these sections are a class E felony, class A misdemeanor and a class B misdemeanor, respectively.

## **Federal Laws**

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) – This act recognized that domestic violence is a national crime and outlined programs to prevent domestic violence and related crimes. VAWA applies to violence against both women and men, and protects a spouse, an intimate partner, or dating partner. The term "intimate partner" includes a spouse, a former spouse, a past or present cohabitant, and parents of a child in common. VAWA provided new protections to victims of domestic abuse, including the recognition and enforcement of protection orders in all state, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions within the U.S. The penalties for violation range from imprisonment for a period of 5 years to life, if the crime of violence results in the victim's death.

## **Stalking**

### **What is Stalking?**

Stalking refers to a pattern of unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that may cause a reasonable individual to feel substantial emotional distress or fear for their safety, the safety of family members and acquaintances, or the safety of private property. Stalking can include, but is not limited to, repeated unwanted and frightening communications (including in person interactions, mail, phone calls, emails, web-based messages, text messages), contacting victim's family, friends, neighbors, or work, repeatedly sending unwanted items or gifts, direct or indirect threats to harm the victim (and/or family members and friends) or damage property, following the victim, trespassing, hiring private investigators, and surveillance or other types of observation.

### **Applicable Laws and Penalties for the Commission of Stalking Related Crimes**

Articles 120 and 240 of New York State Law contain the following legal provisions defining crimes related to stalking:

**Section 120.45/.50/.55/.60 – Stalking in the 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Degrees.** This series of offenses includes engaging in a course of conduct - directed at a specific person - that is likely to cause reasonable fear of material harm to the physical health, safety or property of such person, a member of such person's immediate family, or a third party with whom such person is acquainted. This series of offenses further includes engaging in conduct that can cause material harm to the mental or emotional health of the victim, and/or conduct that is likely to cause the victim to reasonably fear that his or her employment, business or career is threatened. These sections also address the intentional or reckless causing of physical injury to the victim. The penalties for stalking in the 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st degrees are a class B misdemeanor, a class A misdemeanor, a class E felony and a class D felony, respectively.

**Section 240.25/.26/.30/.31 - Harassment.** This series of offenses includes the intentional and repeated harassment of another person by following such person in or about a public place or places, by committing acts which alarm or seriously annoy such other person (and which serve no legitimate purpose), by engaging in a course of conduct which places such person in reasonable fear of physical injury, or by subjecting such other person to physical contact, or attempts or threats to do the same. This series of offenses further includes subjecting a victim to unwanted attention or communication (anonymously or otherwise) and conduct with the intent to harass, annoy, threaten or alarm another person because of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation. The penalties for violation of these sections are a class B misdemeanor, a Violation, a class A misdemeanor, and a class E felony, respectively.

## II. Bias-Related Crime

It is the policy of The Rockefeller University to ensure equal employment opportunity without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law. The University prohibits and will not tolerate any such discrimination or harassment.

### What is a Bias-Related/Hate Crime?

A hate crime is a crime of violence, motivated by prejudice or hate based on race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Although physical attacks are rare, demeaning jokes or harassing or threatening phone calls or e-mails are not uncommon. Bias incidents that do not violate criminal law may violate The Rockefeller University's policy prohibiting harassment and discrimination, The Rockefeller University's code of conduct for students, or federal or state civil law.

### Applicable Laws and Penalties for Commission of Bias-Related Crimes:

The Federal Government and more than 40 states, including New York, have hate crime statutes.

#### 1.) Federal Laws

**a.) 18 U.S.C. 245 Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999** – This act prohibits persons from interfering with an individual's Federal right (e.g. voting or employment) by violence or threat of violence due to his or her race, color, religion, or national origin. This act allows for more authority for the Federal government to investigate and prosecute hate crime offenders who committed their crime because of perceived sexual orientation, gender or disability of the victim. It also permits the Federal government to prosecute without having to prove that the victim was attacked because he or she was performing a

federally protected activity.

**b.) Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994** – As part of the 1994 Crime Act, the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime. A longer sentence may be imposed if it is proven that a crime against a person or property was motivated by “race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.”

**c.) 28 U.S.C. 534 Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990** – This act requires the Department of Justice to collect data on hate crimes. Hate crimes are defined as “manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.” These statistics are compiled by the FBI using the Uniform Crime Reporting system. The Crime Act of 1994 also requires the FBI to collect data on hate crimes involving disability.

## **2.) New York State Law**

**a.) Hate Crimes Act of 2000, Penal Law Art. 485** – This law enhances criminal penalties for a long list of enumerated crimes when perpetrators intentionally select a target based on the victim’s actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation. The law also requires the state to collect, analyze, and annually report on data regarding hate crime throughout the state.

**b.) N.Y. Civil Rights Law § 40-c** – Prohibits discrimination or harassment based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex, or disability. Violation of this provision shall constitute a class A misdemeanor and subjects the perpetrator to a civil action brought by the victim for damages.

**c.) New York Penal Law §240.30** – Covers aggravated harassment against a person “because of a belief or perception regarding person’s race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, sexual orientation, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct.”

**d.) N.Y. Penal Law §240.31** – Enhances penalty for aggravated harassment.

### **III. Reporting Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, or a Bias-Related Incident/Crime:**

Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, or Bias-Related incidents occurring on campus should be reported to the Security Department as promptly as possible. (The campus emergency number is 1111. The emergency number from Sophie Fricke Hall, Graduate Students Residents Hall or cell phone is (212) 327-7111.) Reports can also be made in person to the Security office located in Nurses Residence - Room 105, Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. or The Founders Hall Security Desk 24 hours a day.

Whenever a criminal offense is reported to the Security Department that dictates police involvement, The New York City Police Department 911 will be notified immediately. A security guard will be dispatched immediately to the scene of the incident and will conduct a thorough and timely investigation. If it is determined that a criminal offense has been committed the guard will notify his supervisor and the New York City Police Department. The security department will cooperate fully with the New York City Police Department. If the offense involves a student the guard will inform the Security Director, the Dean of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies or his/her designate immediately.

Persons wishing to report a crime or incident in confidence can do so by contacting the Security Office at Ext. 8506. The name of the person making the report will be kept confidential; however the incident

will be included in the annual crime statistic report without revealing the name of the person who made the report.

When reporting a crime or incident please provide as much information as possible, to include:

- Details of what happened
- Specific location
- Identity and/or description of person(s) involved
- Date and time of incident
- Be as specific as possible when giving any information to the investigating officer.

#### **IV. Counseling and Support Services:**

Confidential access to personal counseling and mental health care for Graduate and Biomedical Fellows is available through the Tri-institutional Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC). They are available at (212) 746-5890, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Employee Assistance Program Consortium  
409 East 60th Street, Rm. 3-305  
New York, NY 10022  
Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Phone: (212) 746-5890

EAPC provides short-term counseling to members of The Rockefeller University, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York Presbyterian Hospital - Cornell Campus, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center community – students, their families and significant others included. This service is provided at no charge to individuals.

EAPC is a confidential referral service geared towards short-term problem-solving for any personal problem you may have. The social workers on staff will first help you evaluate what your situation is, and then discuss all possible avenues for resolving the situation to your satisfaction. There is no long-term counseling offered at EAPC, but they can set you up with counseling if it is needed. Referrals for counseling include psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists of other types, and social workers. Appointments may be made during normal business hours and there is a 24-hour emergency cover through the number given above.

NOTE: New York State law ensures the privacy of sexual assault victims. All Counselor contact with victims is confidential, however; all other employees are required by law to report the incident.

#### **V. Information and Updates about Campus Security:**

A discussion on campus security is included in Rockefeller's student orientation, which is required for all incoming students. A copy of this document is distributed during that session. A copy of the document will be sent to the remaining student body on a yearly basis.

Additionally, if it is established that an ongoing criminal threat or pattern exists, the campus community will be informed. At the conclusion of the investigation a report will be completed and filed in the Security Department.

#### **d. Maintenance of Public Order**

Students, faculty, staff, visitors, licensees or other invitees on the University campus or property are strictly prohibited from taking an action or causing a situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of or involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs by a

person or persons for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with any organization.

### **e. Penalties for Violations of Sections VII(c) and VII(d)**

Penalties for violating Sections VII(c) and VII(d) include ejecting a person or persons from the University campus or property. For a student or faculty violator, this may include suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate disciplinary action, and for an organization, this may include rescission of permission to operate on the University campus or property. These penalties are in addition to any penalty pursuant to the penal law or any other law to which such a person or organization violating these sections may be subject.

### **f. Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy**

The Rockefeller University is committed to maintaining a working and learning environment in which each individual is treated with respect and dignity, to providing an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment, and to protecting individuals from retaliation. Consistent with The Rockefeller University's respect for the rights and dignity of each person, sexual harassment will be neither sanctioned nor tolerated.

Any complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, and or/retaliation may be brought to the attention of the Dean or Ms. Virginia Huffman, Vice President of Human Resources.

A complete copy of the University's Non-discrimination, Anti-harassment, and Anti-retaliation Policy is available in the Human Resources Office and in the University Policies Guide.

### **g. Computer and Electronic Communications Policy**

The University expects all members of its community to use computing and electronic communications made available at the University in a responsible manner. The University may restrict or deny the use of its computers and network systems for electronic communications for violations of University policies, violation of state or federal laws, or violations of standards of conduct and propriety appropriate at the University. Specifically, the University reserves the right to limit or deny access to its networks through University-owned or other computers, and to remove or limit access to material posted on University owned computers in any situation where it believes that such a violation has occurred or is likely to occur. Please consult the University computing and electronic policies section at <http://it.rockefeller.edu/pdf/CompElecCommPolicy.pdf> for further information.

### **h. Intellectual Property and Copyright**

A student must not enter into any legal agreements without consulting his or her advisor and the Dean's Office and/or the Office of the General Counsel. Many organizations and investigators supplying research materials insist that a 'Materials Transfer Agreement', or similar document, is signed by the recipient. This is a legal document and the wording of some of them place severe restrictions on the use and outcomes of any use of the supplied materials. Sometimes the 'material' might be in the form of access to proprietary information, such as a private database. Some universities and investigators use the same document regardless of whether the request comes from academia or industry. Do not view such documents lightly and do not sign any such agreement without seeking advice. If a student uses some material to make a patentable invention, he or she might discover it is the supplier of those materials and not the student who owns the invention!

## **i. Internship Policy**

Graduate students may conduct short internships in various disciplines while still enrolled in the graduate program. In order to conduct an internship, the Dean's Office must receive written approval of the proposed internship (including start and end dates) from the student's Faculty Advisory Committee (including advisor). The length of the internship must also be approved by the Dean.

For internships up to one month, students may continue to receive a graduate student stipend and retain housing eligibility. Students will not be paid a graduate student stipend for paid internships. Details for longer internships will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Annual report and FAC meeting requirements must still be fulfilled while on an internship.

## **j. Laboratory Care and Animal Use**

Students who plan to be working with research animals are urged to contact the Comparative Bioscience Center (CBC) as soon as they recognize their need for animal use. The University has established numerous programs to assist investigators in reducing potential health and environment-related variables in animal research. These and other aspects of laboratory animal use are outlined in the Comparative Bioscience Center Handbook. A copy can be downloaded from the CBC website at <http://cbc.rockefeller.edu/>

All persons initiating a new project involving laboratory animals are required to attend an orientation course related to the care and use of laboratory animals. Courses are given regularly or can be scheduled by calling the CBC Training Coordinator at x8642. In addition, students should feel free to call the CBC to arrange for individualized help, an orientation tour or to get information on any aspect of laboratory animal care, pathology and technology.

## **k. Leave of Absence**

In special circumstances, a student may be granted or requested to take a leave of absence.

Requests for a leave of absence must be made in writing to the Dean. A leave of absence with automatic reinstatement as a Graduate Fellow may be granted for up to one year. The request for a leave of absence will be reviewed by the Dean and research advisor. They may wish to consult with a faculty committee convened for that purpose. If a leave of absence is granted for a period longer than one year, the Dean, the research advisor and the ad hoc committee (if convened) will specify the terms for re-entry.

Requests for a medical leave of absence will require the following additional procedures. The student must submit a letter from a physician knowledgeable about the student's situation recommending that a medical leave of absence be granted. Re-entry into the graduate program will be contingent upon receipt of a written recommendation by the student's physician stating that the student is ready to return to the program. The Dean, research advisor and FAC (if convened) may wish to request a separate evaluation of the student by a physician of their choice prior to granting re-entry.

Circumstances may arise in which the Dean and the research advisor recommend that a student take a leave of absence. If the student objects to the recommended leave of absence, a special committee of faculty will be formed by the Dean and will include one faculty member chosen by the student.



## I. Nepotism and Personal Relationships

Members of the University community may not participate in or directly influence the hire, promotion, supervision, evaluation, salary and grade determination, or advise or otherwise directly influence the academic progress of another member of the community with whom the individual has personal relationships.

## m. Radiation Monitoring Policy

Dosimeters are provided by Laboratory Safety & Environmental Health (LS&EH) to those laboratory workers that may receive exposures in excess of one tenth of the annual occupational limit for radiation workers, as established by the New York City Department of Health in agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Students are instructed to consult with LS&EH to determine if they are required to use a dosimeter. The determination is made based on the inventory of the laboratory. Any student may contact LS&EH with any questions about the use of or need for dosimeters.

LS&EH also has a radiation monitoring program for declared pregnant employees. A pregnant woman who works in a laboratory or one whose duties take her regularly into a laboratory where radioactive materials or radiation-producing equipment are used may elect to declare her pregnancy and take advantage of this monitoring process. This procedure is completely **voluntary** and any information obtained from the employee is confidential and will be used only to properly implement the procedure.

The Department of Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health is located in the A level of Founders Hall, and can be reached at x8324.

## n. Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure

The policy and procedure regarding Allegations of Research Misconduct can be found in the Human Resources employee handbook at:

[https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR\\_UNIVPOLICIES\\_pdf](https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR_UNIVPOLICIES_pdf).

## o. Smoking Policy

In compliance with the New York City Smoke-Free Air Act and New York State Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking is not permitted on campus.

## p. Student Employment Policy

University policy does not permit students to accept activities for compensation; exceptional circumstances may be discussed with the Dean in advance.

## q. Substance Abuse Policy

It is the policy of The Rockefeller University to make every effort to ensure a drug-free workplace in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its employees, its students, and the public. The following guidelines have been established in order to maintain such an environment. **A student or employee who violates this Policy will be subject to University sanctions and criminal sanctions provided by federal, state, and local law.**

- (1) University policy prohibits the unlawful manufacture, possession, use, distribution,

dispensation, sale, or purchase of non-prescribed controlled substances (drugs) and intoxicants (alcohol) on University premises or at off campus University-sponsored events.

The only exceptions are for consumption and/or possession of alcohol by those over the age of 21 at University-sponsored events (on or off campus) or in the Abby Aldrich Dining Room, the Faculty and Students Club, or University Housing.

- (2) All employees are required to report to their jobs in a good mental and physical condition. Any individual whose work performance is impaired by the use of drugs and/or alcohol will be considered a threat to the safety of his/her work environment, and subject to immediate discipline.
- (3) As required by the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, an employee working on projects funded through federal contracts or grants must notify Human Resources or the Deans Office of a conviction of a criminal drug violation that occurred on University property within five (5) days of such conviction. The University is required to notify the relevant federal contracting or granting agency within ten (10) days and to take the appropriate personnel action within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice.

A conviction includes: a plea or finding of guilty, any plea of "nolo contendere", or an imposition of a fine or penalty.

- (4) Members of the University community who need drug and/or alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, or support services are urged to use the Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC). The EAPC can provide both free, short-term counseling and referrals for long-term treatment, the cost of which is partially covered by health insurance. For more information regarding the EAPC, contact Human Resources at (212) 327-8300, or contact the EAPC at (212) 746-5890.

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1990 requires that this Policy include descriptions of the health risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse and the legal sanctions under local, state, or federal law for illicit use, possession, or distribution of alcohol and controlled substances.

#### THE HEALTH RISKS OF ALCOHOL USE AND ABUSE

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce these effects.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Alcoholism is defined as a complex, chronic psychological and nutritional disorder associated with compulsive and/or excessive drinking. Alcohol is addictive in nature; it poisons the body, destroys the brain, heart, liver, and pancreas; it damages the digestive tract and immune system. Alcoholics are more vulnerable to heart disease, cancer, organ failure, and mental illnesses. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome.

These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than others of becoming alcoholics.

### THE HEALTH RISKS OF DRUG ABUSE

Drugs are chemicals which cause physical and psychological dependence. Please review Chart A in the Substance Abuse Policy at [https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR\\_UNIVPOLICIES\\_pdf](https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR_UNIVPOLICIES_pdf), which describes the uses and effects of controlled substances.

### FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES

Please review Charts B and C at [https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR\\_UNIVPOLICIES\\_pdf](https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Policy&file=HR_UNIVPOLICIES_pdf) for a description of federal penalties for the trafficking of controlled substances.

### FEDERAL PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS FOR THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

**First Conviction** - Up to one year imprisonment and fine of at least \$1,000, or both.

**After one prior drug conviction** - At least 15 days in prison, not to exceed two years and fine of at least \$2,500, or both.

**After two or more prior drug convictions** – At least 90 days in prison, not to exceed three years and a fine of at least \$5,000, or both.

In addition, the offender may be forced to relinquish personal and real property used to possess or facilitate possession of a controlled substance if the violation is punishable by more than one year in prison. Any vehicle used to transport or conceal a controlled substance must be forfeited and a civil fine may be imposed. For first-time offenders, federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, can be denied for up to one year. For the second and subsequent offenses, federal benefits can be denied for up to five years.

### NEW YORK STATE AND CITY PENALTIES FOR DRUG POSSESSION

New York State law also forbids the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and imposes criminal penalties, which may include imprisonment. The penalty imposed for a conviction will generally depend upon the specific drug and the amount of the drug held or sold, as well as the individual's history of prior convictions. Judges have some discretion to consider the circumstances in sentencing. The following are a few examples of potential criminal penalties for drug infractions under New York law.

- The criminal possession of 500 milligrams or more of cocaine is a class D felony, punishable by up to 2 ½ years in prison.
- The possession of one-half an ounce of cocaine or more is a Class C felony punishable by 1 - 9 years in prison.
- The criminal possession of eight to sixteen ounces of marijuana is a class E felony, punishable by up to 1 ½ years in prison for a first offense.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive and is subject to change. The full list of NY drug crimes and their penalties can be found in the New York Penal Code.

Under New York City law, a person who has been convicted of felony possession or sale of a controlled substance may be subject to a civil penalty between \$10,000 and \$100,000 for each count that resulted in a conviction and for the costs of the investigation and prosecution of the individual.

#### PENALTIES FOR UNLAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL

Under both federal and New York State laws, selling or otherwise furnishing alcohol to an individual under the age of 21 is a misdemeanor punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. Selling alcohol without a license or permit is unlawful and punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

#### VIOLATIONS OF THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The Rockefeller University will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees (consistent with local, state, and federal law), up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of this Policy.

#### **r. Vacation Policy**

Students may take an annual vacation of up to two weeks, in addition to official Rockefeller University closings (Christmas and National Holidays) and major religious observances. The timing of vacations should be agreed upon between the student and thesis advisor. Students in the first year, who do not have a thesis advisor, should note that vacation may not be taken while participating in courses and vacation plans should be discussed with their rotation advisor or the Dean's Office.

#### **s. Prohibition on the Marketing of Credit Cards**

The University prohibits the advertising, marketing, or merchandising of credit cards to students on the University campus. Any violation of this rule should be brought to the attention of Ms. Marta Delgado, Senior Graduate Program Administrator of Finance and Student Affairs, at [delgadm@rockefeller.edu](mailto:delgadm@rockefeller.edu).

#### **t. Grievance Procedures**

Any graduate student who believes that he or she has been dealt with unfairly in an academic matter may appeal in writing to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Dean will call a meeting of the student's FAC Committee to discuss and work out a mutually agreeable solution. If a solution cannot be found, or if a FAC has not yet been formed, the matter will be referred to the Graduate Program Advisory Committee. If an agreement is still not reached, then the Dean will consult the President of the University. The Rockefeller University prohibits retaliation against any individual who files an academic complaint.

### **VIII. Financial Information**

Students in the Ph.D. program are guaranteed full financial support, including the cost of tuition and a stipend. For the academic year 2018-19, the stipend is \$40,500. The student pays for room and board from the stipend received (a combined estimated yearly sum of \$25,000 for living expenses). The stipend is designed to be sufficient to cover room, board and personal expenses. Students are expected to engage full-time in advanced study and research. University policy does not permit students to accept activities for compensation; exceptional circumstances may be discussed with the Dean in advance.

## a. Student Research Funds

The research activities of most students are supported in large part by funds available to the laboratories in which they work. However, students receive an annual research budget (totaling \$2,500 in the first year and \$1,500 in years 2-5) to assure them some fiscal independence.

### **The use of the research budget is limited to supplies and expenses associated with a student's research.**

These funds may be used to travel to scientific meetings and conferences, and to provide modest support for specific equipment needed for student research that cannot be provided by the advisor. Please see below for more information on using your student budget for computer and equipment purchases or student travel. Stationery items stocked by Purchasing and reasonably needed for study and research may also be charged to these funds. Student supply funds also may be used to reimburse a student for the purchase of scientific books and/or one periodical up to a limit of \$500 in the first two years and \$300 thereafter. Reimbursements must be requested from and approved by the Senior Administrator of Finance in the Dean's Office.

All purchases of electronic equipment (regardless of cost) and all purchases exceeding \$500 require prior approval by the Senior Administrator of Finance and must be briefly justified by the student, in writing, and approved by the advisor.

In principle, student and advisor should agree on the expenditures that are needed for the student's research.

Unspent research funds are carried forward to the next fiscal year. Overspent budgets will be deducted from the next fiscal year's budget. Each fiscal year is effective from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. In exceptional circumstances, additional funds to the yearly-allocated amount may be applied for with detailed justification from both the student and the advisor.

These funds may not be used to equip or supply a student's personal accommodation, to support hobbies, or to pay for other personal expenses. Any equipment item(s) purchased with student supply funds (with the exception of personal computers) cannot be moved into the student's room. All equipment purchased with such funds must remain in the laboratory.

Any student who uses his or her student research budget for personal expenses will be required to have **all** future purchases approved by the Senior Administrator of Finance, in consultation with the advisor.

### **ELECTRONIC PURCHASE GUIDELINES**

Students may purchase two computers and one iPad/tablet using their student research budgets during their tenure as a graduate fellow. The two computer purchases must be a minimum of 3 years apart. A student may spend up to \$5,000 total from their research funds for computer/tablet purchases. There is no restriction as to type, but they must be purchased through the RU Purchasing Department. **Direct purchases from the outside will not be reimbursed.** All computer purchases must be **pre-approved** by the Senior Administrator of Finance in the Dean's Office. Further details can be obtained from the purchasing department ([purchasing@rockefeller.edu](mailto:purchasing@rockefeller.edu)). Every student is given an IAS password upon enrollment to the program for use with personal research account numbers. If a student experiences a problem with his or her IAS account, please contact Devin Ramdhani at x8204.

The computers/tablets are the students' personal property. Students are reminded that commercial software is subject to strict copyright and licensing restrictions and must not be duplicated.

Considering the amount of valuable information that can be stored on a computer, students should make provisions to routinely backup their electronic data. Special-purpose computational facilities are available for students' use through the Information Technology department.

Stipend loans are available from the Dean's Office to pay for computer balances. Please consult the Senior Administrator of Finance for details.

#### IT CONNECTED BACK-UP PROGRAM

Hard drive encryption is required for any laptop that is purchased using University funds. IT may assist with the encryption process as well as enable automatic operating system patching, installation of VPN and anti-virus software. Having an up-to-date operating system and anti-virus software is required to connect to the campus network. In addition, for a small fee, the IT Department offers MS Office and a computer back-up service. IT charges \$43.56 per Mac and \$53.81 per PC for the installation of MS Office and charges \$5 monthly per workstation for its back-up service. These fees can be charged to your student budget.

If interested in having access to the Crashplan back-up program via IT, please do the following:

1. Call the helpdesk at ext. 8940 to request backup services.
2. Indicate the OS (Windows or Mac).
3. Quantity of each backup station.
4. Provide student account number

#### EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

If purchase or construction of equipment costing \$500-2,999 is anticipated, approval and assignment of funds by the Dean's Office must be requested in advance. Purchase of major equipment (\$3,000 or more) may require approval and assignment of funds by the President's Office; a letter of justification from the student(s) needing the equipment, together with a letter of endorsement from the advisor and the head of the laboratory, should be submitted through the Dean's Office.

#### STUDENT TRAVEL FOR MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Up to \$1,500 per financial year (July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>) may be used, from individual student budgets, for attendance at meetings and conferences. The \$1,500 allowance can be used to cover expenses for meeting/conference registration, travel, room and board. Registration, travel and room charges must be documented with receipts. An allowance of \$75 per day may be used for food.

For international meetings exceeding \$1,500, the Dean's Office will supplement a student's budget up to a maximum of \$500. This supplement may be used twice during a graduate student's career. In order to qualify for the supplement, you must present a poster or oral presentation at the meeting.

Use of this money and the administration of travel advances and reimbursements is handled by the Senior Administrator of Finance in the Dean's Office. A letter from the student's research advisor recommending attendance at a meeting must be received in the Dean's Office prior to the meeting.

**Car rentals will not be reimbursed unless there is prior approval from the Dean's Office.** Approval will be based on acceptable justification from advisor and student.

#### TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

On an annual basis, travel fellowships are offered to all graduate students. Detailed research proposals are due in the Dean's Office by May 31<sup>st</sup> in order to participate. The chosen candidates will be notified by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**RU Abroad Program** Under the terms of this program, the Dean's Office provides travel and housing funds to permit two students to do research abroad. To apply, students should submit a detailed research proposal to the Administrator of Finance in the Dean's Office. The proposal should contain a description of the proposed work and its relation to the student's research at RU. The lab and the professors with whom the student would work should be mentioned in the proposal, although it will not be necessary for the student to have their approval by the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. As in the past, travel money and a housing allowance of \$1,500 will be awarded to each selected student.

**John R. Segal Memorial Fellowship** This fund provides up to \$950 for a student at RU to travel to Italy to do research or attend conferences. If a student is awarded the Segal Fellowship, the Dean's Office will supplement the fellowship funds up to the RU Abroad Program levels. To apply for this fellowship, students must submit a detailed research proposal similar to that described for the RU Abroad Program.

**Alexander Mauro Fellowship** This fund provides up to \$1,500 for a student to travel to a foreign university to study. To apply for this fellowship, students must submit a detailed research proposal similar to that described for the RU Abroad Program.

**Sumi Koide Fellowship** This fund provides up to \$1,000 to permit two biomedical fellows in their final clinical year to travel to conferences and meetings. A brief letter indicating what your plans are is all that is required. This fellowship is offered on a first-come first-served basis with no fixed submission date.

## **b. Tuition Defrayment**

Upon the recommendation of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee or research advisor, the Dean's Office may authorize the University to defray the cost for a course at another university (including field stations and marine biology laboratories) when the course is clearly important for the student's professional development. Students must obtain an "External Course Request Form" from the Registrar, discuss course plans with their research advisor **and receive the approval of the Dean prior to enrolling in a course for which they will seek tuition defrayment. No reimbursements will be made without prior written approval.**

The Dean's Office will cover up to \$4,000 of the course tuition for Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) and Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) courses taken for academic credit. Courses at institutions other than CSHL and MBL will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students can receive this course supplement once while enrolled in the graduate program.

## **c. Bronk Fund**

The Bronk fund was established for the improvement of student life on campus. Students are reimbursed half up to \$125 each for memberships to health clubs, aerobics classes, swimming pools, dance classes, marathons, etc. The funds can also be used for language/art classes, skiing lessons, and theater/concert/sporting event tickets. (Only students in years 1-5 are eligible to submit receipts for reimbursement.) These funds cannot be used to purchase items of any sort. Please send receipts to Cristian Rosario or Stephanie Fernandez for reimbursement.

The fund is also used to purchase student lottery ticket subscriptions to concerts, the opera and the

ballet. The Bronx Fund student organizer will inform students when to apply for the lottery tickets via e-mail.

## **IX. Information for International Students**

The Human Resources Office of Immigration and Academic Appointments provides immigration services to international students. The staff will advise international students on obtaining and maintaining lawful status while at the University. Additionally, this office stays apprised of all relevant immigration regulations, procedures and developments to ensure the community is informed and in compliance. All international students are required to register with this office upon their arrival and notify this office upon their departure. For more information, please contact Benjamin Lasalata, Immigration and Academic Appointments Specialist, at ext. 8057 or [blasalata@rockefeller.edu](mailto:blasalata@rockefeller.edu).

## **X. Housing and Meals**

### HOUSING

Subsidized housing for all Ph.D. students is guaranteed. Accommodations include studios with kitchenettes, double and triple suites with a shared kitchen and one-bedroom apartments. M.D.-Ph.D. students spend their first six years in Cornell housing, then live in Rockefeller housing for the duration of the program. Like the laboratories, all on-campus student rooms have high-speed computer access lines. Current rents range from \$680 to \$1,190 a month. Please contact Joe Alonzo ([alonzoj@rockefeller.edu](mailto:alonzoj@rockefeller.edu); ext.7544) or Marnel Herbert ([herberm@rockefeller.edu](mailto:herberm@rockefeller.edu); ext.8670) if you have any questions regarding student housing.

### MEALS

The University's Weiss cafeteria is open for breakfast (7:30 – 10:45 a.m.) and lunch (11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.) on weekdays year round. The Collaborative Research Center (CRC) cafe is open from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall dining room is open for lunch (12 – 2 p.m.) during the academic year.

The student pays for room and board (a combined estimated yearly sum of \$25,000 for living expenses) from the stipend received.

## **XI. Resources**

### **a. Information Technology (IT)**

#### ACADEMIC COMPUTING

The campus network is a gigabit Ethernet backbone network that provides high-speed access to the Internet. PC and Macintosh computers can connect to the network remotely and securely (using VPN software). Wireless access is also available in most areas of the campus via the RUGuest and RUWirelessSecure network. Visit <http://it.rockefeller.edu/campus-network#wireless> for additional information.

Public computers are available 24 hours a day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the The Rita and Frits Markus Library. There are Mac and PC workstations with Internet access and office productivity software. A Training/Classroom is available on the A-level of The Rita and Frits Markus Library and is equipped



with Mac and PC laptops with Internet access and Microsoft Office. The facility is additionally equipped with a self-service projector and screen. To reserve the training room, use the university's online room reservation system. The Training/Classroom is not available for general/public computer use.

### AVAILABLE RESOURCES

A number of resources are available for general and scientific use, including: e-mail, research databases, virus scanning software, sequencing programs, DNA/protein databases, statistical packages, mathematic analysis, graphic visualization tools and campus mailing lists. Remote access to most electronic resources from off campus requires that you login to the campus network using the university VPN system. Information about and links to available IT resources, including some site-licensed software available for free download, can be found on the IT Web site at <http://www.rockefeller.edu/it>. The IT homepage is updated frequently with important campus IT news and alerts. Product and service announcements are also communicated to the campus via e-mail and a weekly newsletter, iNews.

### TRAINING

Information Technology offers ongoing education programs including seminars, training classes and coordination of classroom, in-lab, off-site and one-on-one training is available upon request. For more information, visit the Help, Support & Training section of the IT Web site.

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Help Desk is a single point of contact for computer support. Help is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. From basic software installation and questions to hardware related failures, the Help Desk staff attempts to provide immediate tech support over the telephone, via e-mail, remotely or in person. The Help Desk is located in the IT Pavilion and can be reached by e-mail at [helpdesk@rockefeller.edu](mailto:helpdesk@rockefeller.edu) or by telephone at x8940. Service requests can also be submitted online from the IT Web site at <http://www.rockefeller.edu/it>.

## **b. Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health**

The Office of Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health (LS&EH) offers assistance and advice to all members of the University in designing safe working environments and practices and developing procedures for the handling, containment and disposal of biological, chemical and radioactive materials. The University's mandatory new employee safety orientation course is offered monthly; please call LS&EH for the exact dates. All first year Rockefeller students (including affiliating 3<sup>rd</sup> year MD-PhDs) are required to attend this course. Additional safety training, available online, must be completed as well. Information about the University's safety policies and procedures and The Rockefeller University Safety Manual are available in hardcopy on request form LS&EH or electronically from the LS&EH website <http://www.rockefeller.edu/lab/>.

LS&EH, in coordination with the Laboratories and in compliance with regulatory requirements, maintains electronic inventories of the radioactive and biological materials and chemicals used in the labs. In accordance with the conditions of the University's radioactive materials license, all radioisotope packages are received by LS&EH, checked for contamination, and given an inventory number before release to the laboratories. A complete inventory of all radioisotopes on campus is supervised by LS&EH through an interactive computer program. Through this program, individual laboratories order, obtain information, enter use and disposal information about the laboratory's radioisotopes, and order personal dosimeters. The Laboratory biological and chemical inventories are managed through additional modules of the same program. Please check with the Safety Officer assigned to your

laboratory for more information on how to access these inventories.

All biological, chemical and radioactive waste is collected directly from the laboratories and shops by LS&EH staff. Guidelines for preparation, containing, and labeling hazardous waste are available on the safety poster mounted near the elevator on laboratory floors, in the Safety Manual, at the LS&EH website and in hardcopy from the LS&EH office. Questions about waste procedures can be directed to the Laboratory Safety Officer and/or to LS&EH.

LS&EH coordinates with the Occupational Health Service on workplace incident investigation and follow-up, ergonomic issues, and medical surveillance programs, including vaccination and respiratory protection programs.

LS&EH has extensive reference materials on biological, chemical, and radioactive agents and maintains the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) collection for all laboratory chemicals received at the University. LS&EH has specialized equipment for the detection of hazards and supplies for containment and personal protection. Pre-chilled -80 and -20 ultra-low freezers can be borrowed by laboratories during the defrosting or emergency repair of their ultra-low freezers. The annual certification and routine maintenance of all biological safety cabinets is managed by LS&EH. In addition, LS&EH staff certify and monitor fume hood performance and respond to many ventilation problems, including odor complaints. The staff also measures the efficiency of laboratory survey meters and performs quarterly contamination checks of all laboratories using radioisotopes. LS&EH routinely performs site visits and safety audits of the laboratories, conducts risk assessments, participates in disaster and emergency planning and preparedness and LS&EH staff are key first responders to emergencies affected laboratories and/or presenting possible safety or environmental impacts.

### **c. Library**

#### Rita and Frits Markus Library

Location: Welch Hall (enter through Founders Hall lobby)

Access Hours: 24/7 with Rockefeller ID

Staff Hours: 9:00-5:00, M-F

Contact: [libcirc@rockefeller.edu](mailto:libcirc@rockefeller.edu) or ext. 8904

The library offers diverse resources and services to support biomedical and scientific research at the university. These include an extensive print and electronic collection of scholarly books and journals, and environments for both individual study and small group collaboration. The library's array of digital resources includes an integrated library system (ALMA) that contains combined information on the collections of the libraries of the Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College. The library's digital collections consist of e-books, full-text journals, databases, archival journals, and the library blog with recommended reading lists for campus seminars, all accessible at <http://inside.rockefeller.edu/library/>

Most electronic resources are copyrighted material, and provided to the campus community through negotiated licenses. It is important for you to note that while the Markus library carefully selects which resources will be licensed and made broadly available on campus, the entire global universe of publications and information is available to you through the library's extensive collaborative relationships and consortium memberships. This means that you DO have access to materials for which we don't have subscriptions. If you search our extensive holdings and do not find a particular resource (article, book, report, etc.) that you require, you may request that the library obtain it for you. Simply submit your request by phone (x8904, x8916), email ([librequest@rockefeller.edu](mailto:librequest@rockefeller.edu)) or by

speaking with any library staff member. Be aware that there are copyright protections and license restrictions that regulate the use and distribution of published materials. You will find the University's policy regarding the ethical use of electronic resources on the library website:

[https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Guideline&file=library\\_ERGuidlines\\_pdf](https://formspolicies.rockefeller.edu/getfile.php?type=Guideline&file=library_ERGuidlines_pdf)

When requests for articles/papers are made in the morning they are often delivered to you on the very same day. Some requests may take longer when we are relying on the cooperation and generosity of another library that is also obligated to operate within the law. While there may be modest costs associated with obtaining unsubscribed materials, these costs are NOT passed on to you. We urge you to rely on the established efficient and legal collaborative mechanisms in place at the library to provide you with everything that you need.

Located in the renovated Welch Hall, the library offers physical spaces and amenities to facilitate thinking, writing, studying, collaborating and socializing:

- Public access computers; WiFi throughout the building
- Meeting room with projector and whiteboard; small group study rooms
- Lounge with large screen TV and cable, magazines, daily newspapers, recreational reading, games, video courses
- Lockers for personal storage
- Kindles, fully loaded with hundreds of popular books and available for checkout

Primary Library Services: Information Research assistance and consultation; Database training; Access to the world's scientific literature; Document Delivery; Digital Repository; NIH Guidelines Compliance Assistance; public access computers; study rooms and social space.

#### **d. Student Representative Committee (SRC)**

##### DESCRIPTION

The Student Representative Committee's goal is to improve both academic and extra-curricular student life at Rockefeller. The committee holds meetings at which ideas for new educational, housing, or leisure programs are originated, discussed, and acted upon. When the need arises, the SRC acts as a spokesperson and advocate for the student body.

The committee consists of 7 members: one from each class for the first 5 years, one MD/PhD representative, and one tri-institutional program representative. The two representatives for the tri-institutional programs can be drawn from any year. Each member is elected for a term of two years (so representatives should start on odd years).

##### Current Representatives:

1<sup>st</sup> Year – Sarah Cai

2<sup>nd</sup> Year – Alexander Stuart

3<sup>rd</sup> Year – Danielle Keahi

4<sup>th</sup> Year – Krithika Venkataraman

5<sup>th</sup> Year – Shaopeng Leo Yuan

MD-PhD – Ari Zolin

Tri-Institutional – Cristina Santarossa

##### SRC MEETINGS

SRC meetings are open to all and held approximately twice a year, or more frequently as needed. When voting on proposed items, the SRC takes all expressed views into consideration.

## ELECTIONS

SRC elections will be held once a year. They will take place after the student retreat via e-mail, so that the first years can get to know one another before the vote.

## STUDENT PROPOSALS AND FINANCES

The SRC has a limited budget; however the Dean's Office welcomes proposals for projects, events, or items that will enhance the Rockefeller student experience. Anyone interested in making a proposal should write a one page summary and submit it to the SRC.

All proposals received will be available for public review at the next SRC meeting. If reasonable, the SRC will approach the Dean's Office to request the funds necessary. By working such proposals through the SRC, there is a process for demonstrating general student support for such proposals, which should help screen out weakly supported ones, while improving the odds of funding for those with support. Examples would include things like the student website or missing gym equipment. Unrealistic proposals would include a swimming pool or other projects requiring large capital expenditures.

## REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND DEAN'S OFFICE

The SRC has yearly meetings with the President and more frequent meetings with the Dean to discuss student issues and to propose new initiatives.

## **XII. Services and Programs**

### **a. Athletic Facilities**

Athletic facilities on campus include a tennis court, squash court and a gym.

In order to be granted access to the gym, you must sign the "Fitness Center Informed Consent for Exercise Program Participation and Waiver of Claims" form. This form is available in Human Resources. The signed form should be returned to the security desk in Founder's Hall.

To reserve either the tennis court or the squash court, please register to use the online reservation system with Security at the Founder's Hall Front Desk or at the Security Office (NR 105) Monday - Thursday, 12 noon to 4 p.m. After registering, you may use the online court reservation pages at [https://appintpl.rockefeller.edu/tennis/t\\_logins](https://appintpl.rockefeller.edu/tennis/t_logins) or [https://appintpl.rockefeller.edu/squash/s\\_logins](https://appintpl.rockefeller.edu/squash/s_logins). The tennis court is open 24 hours a day, weather permitting.

### **b. Brooke Astor Student Life Center**

The late Mrs. Brooke Astor, a former University Trustee, is the benefactor of the Student Life Center. Located in Sophie Fricke Hall, the Brooke Astor Student Life Center includes a TV lounge, a full-size kitchen (all appliances), conference table, sofa, and ping-pong table. Only graduate students have access to this area.

### **c. University Perks**

Consult our website at <http://inside.rockefeller.edu/hr/perks>

### **d. The Faculty and Students Club**

The Faculty and Students Club, founded in 1958, encourages social interaction and scientific collaboration among the faculty, postdocs and students. The use of the club is limited to members and their guests only. Membership is free for 1<sup>st</sup> year students and the student membership fee is \$5 per year thereafter. Membership is renewable on a yearly basis. Questions regarding membership may be directed to Chad Ethier, Director of Hospitality Services at (212) 327-8051 or [cethier@rockefeller.edu](mailto:cethier@rockefeller.edu).

Members may also use the club for lab related functions such as farewell parties, thesis celebrations, barbecues, etc., during its normal operation hours. For a modest fee, members may also use the facility for small private functions during weekends only. The member booking the event must be present at the function and must abide by the club rules.

Location: B floor, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall  
Hours of Operation: 4-11 p.m., Monday through Friday

#### **Staff:**

Brad Mathias, Club Manager, ext. 8078

#### **The Rockefeller University Faculty & Students Club Board of Directors**

Dr. Ali Brivanlou, President  
Dr. Charles Rice  
Dr. Leslie Vosshall  
Dr. Vince Fiore (Postdoctoral Advisor)  
Dr. Charlotte Viant (Postdoctoral Advisor)  
Mr. Jakob Rostol (Student Advisor)  
Mr. Shaopeng Yuan (Student Advisor)

### **e. Friday Lectures**

The University's Friday Lecture Series is held every Friday during the academic year in Caspary Auditorium from 3:45 to 5 p.m. Tea is served at 3:15 in the Abby Lounge. Students have the opportunity to meet with the guest speaker over lunch.

### **f. Health Services**

#### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Many students and their dependents are not familiar with the different health services in this city or in the country. All students should be informed, so that they know how to handle an emergency. Any student or dependent who is in immediate need of medical assistance should contact the Emergency Room of New York-Presbyterian/The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell (525 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street and York Avenue) at (212) 746-5454.

<http://nypemergency.org/wcmc.html?name1=New+York+Weill+Cornell+Medical+Center&type1=2>  
[Active](#)

**There is a 24 hour emergency-response service on campus. Call x1111 for acute emergencies before calling the off-campus 911 (all-around-the-country emergency number).**

## HEALTH BENEFITS

All MD-PhD students are enrolled in the Weill Medical College of Cornell University insurance program throughout all phases of the program. Please check with Cornell as to the type of coverage available.

PhD students are enrolled in medical, dental, and vision insurance plans through The Rockefeller University, which is a graduate program requirement. Spouses, certified domestic partners, and dependent children are also offered coverage in the medical, dental, and vision insurance plans. If a spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child is added to your plan, then the value of their coverage is considered taxable as imputed income. You are required to report this amount to the Internal Revenue Service and New York State/City, and pay the applicable income tax to the aforementioned taxing authorities. These University health insurance plans are administered by Human Resources and the terms and benefits are under continual review. **In order to make changes to your plans, you will need to submit to Human Resources a completed HRDirect Opt-In Agreement to access your online benefits account. You will have 31 days from your start date to add any dependents to your coverage. If you do not sign them up within this period, you will have individual Oxford medical, Aetna dental, and EyeMed vision coverage.** After this time, you will be eligible to make changes during the annual Open Enrollment period, which is in the fall of every year. Enrollments and changes made during Open Enrollment are effective January 1st of the following year. In addition, you may add or remove dependents from coverage within 30 days of a life event (ex. birth, adoption, marriage, divorce).

## HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

The following is a summary of the medical insurance plan offered:

### The Oxford Freedom Plan (POS)

The Oxford Freedom Plan provides its members with benefits received on an in-network and an out-of-network basis. To enroll you must choose a Primary Care Physician (PCP) for everyone covered under the plan. All benefits received on an in-network basis are through the PCP and co-payments are \$10 per visit. To see a specialist or type of doctor other than your PCP, you must get a referral from your PCP. To receive benefits on an out-of-network basis, you may choose any doctor, and these services will be covered at 80% of reasonable and customary charges after the annual deductible of \$300 per individual (up to three people for family coverage - \$900) is met. All prescriptions are provided on an in-network basis. The co-payment is \$7 for generic and \$20 for brand name drugs at participating pharmacies.

The following is a summary of the dental insurance plan offered:

### Dental Insurance Plan

Type A expenses (preventive and diagnostic services) are covered at 100% of reasonable and customary charges with no deductible. Type B expenses (basic restorative services) are covered at 80% of reasonable and customary charges after deductible. Type C expenses (major restorative services) are covered at 80% of reasonable and customary charges after deductible. The annual deductible for Dental coverage is \$50 for individual and \$150 for family for types B, C & D services.

The maximum annual benefit is \$2,000 per person. Type D expenses (orthodontic services) are covered at 50% of reasonable and customary charges up to a \$2,000 lifetime benefit (dependent child to age 19 only). Reimbursement of dental fees is handled by CoreSource.

The following is a summary of the vision plan offered:

#### Vision Plan

EyeMed Vision Care covers LensCrafters, Pearle Vision, Sears Optical, Target Optical, JCPenney Optical as well as various private practitioners. For a complete list of providers near you, use the Provider Locator on [eyemedvisioncare.com](http://eyemedvisioncare.com). The plan allows for an annual comprehensive eye exam with dilation as necessary, with a \$10 copay. You also receive an annual \$200 allowance for frames and an additional \$200 allowance for lenses (either contact lenses or eyeglasses' lenses).

Further information on insurance coverage may be obtained at <http://inside.rockefeller.edu/hr/handbook> or by calling Human Resources at x7788.

#### IMMUNIZATION LAW

For the purposes of the college immunization law\*, documented proof of immunity against Measles, Mumps and Rubella shall mean the following:

**Measles** – two (2) doses of live measles vaccine given on or after the first birthday, physician documented history of disease, or serological evidence of immunity.

**Rubella (German measles)** – one dose of live virus rubella vaccine given on or after the first birthday, or serological evidence of immunity.

**Mumps** – one dose of live mumps vaccine given on or after the first birthday, a physician documented history of disease, or serological evidence of immunity.

If the above documentation is not presented, a student will be required to receive immunizations and/or titer tests for immunization to these diseases. The required vaccinations (MMR and Meningitis) can be obtained from the Occupational Health Services Office at no cost to the student. Please contact Ashley Foo, ANP-BC, Director of OHS at x8414 if you require vaccination. Students not in compliance with this requirement will be excluded from all school activities per New York State law. You are strongly recommended to complete and document your immunizations before arrival on campus.

#### MATERNITY LEAVE

Students who are expecting a child should inform the Dean's Office. You are allowed six weeks of paid maternity leave. If more time is required due to special circumstances, the Dean will consider a request for an extension of leave without pay. Your advisor should be consulted on this matter.

#### PERSONAL COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Confidential access to personal counseling and mental health care for all students is available through the Tri-institutional Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC). If your life seems to be getting

harder to deal with, do not hesitate to contact EAPC. In an emergency, they are available at (212) 746-5890, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Employee Assistance Program  
409 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Rm. 3-305 (between York and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.)  
Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Phone 212-746-5890

EAPC provides short-term counseling to members of the Rockefeller, Cornell, NY Hospital, Hospital for Special Surgery and Sloan-Kettering community – students, their families and significant others included. This service is provided at no charge to individuals.

EAPC is a confidential referral service geared towards short-term problems-solving for any personal problem you may have – depression, loneliness, relationship or family issues, substance abuse, legal or financial problems, child care services – anything. The social workers on staff will first help you evaluate what your situation is, and then discuss all possible avenues for resolving the situation to your satisfaction. There is no long-term counseling offered at EAPC, but they can set you up with counseling if it is needed. Referrals for counseling include psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists of other types, and social workers. A few visits to EAPC (maybe only one!) may be all that is necessary for you. Appointments may be made during normal business hours and there is a 24-hour emergency cover through the number given above.

On site counseling services are also available. Dr. Nisha Mehta-Naik, M.D. is available two days a week to meet privately with members of the RU community. If interested in scheduling a confidential appointment, please contact Occupational Health Services at (212) 327-8414.

### WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Please visit our website at <http://inside.rockefeller.edu/hr/wellness> for several free on site wellness services.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

In addition to wellness screenings and immunizations, the Occupational Health Services Office is staffed by Nurse Practitioners who are able to provide assessment, diagnosis, and treatment (including prescriptions) for minor illnesses and injuries. This is available on an appointment or walk-in basis, and is also free of charge. OHS is not meant to replace someone's primary care practitioner, but can serve as a convenient supplement on-campus. Additionally, OHS can provide referrals to new students who have yet to link up with a new general practitioner or specialist.

### **g. Mail Room**

#### SHIPPING PERSONAL PACKAGES TO ROCKEFELLER

All personal packages, large or small, shipped to the University, should be addressed as follows – The Rockefeller University, Box #\_\_, 1230 York Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10065. Please provide both the Dean's Office and the Mail Room with your home and lab phones as soon as they are established, so that you can be informed of the arrival of your packages.



All students, especially those about to join Rockefeller, should note that you must time the shipment of packages so that you are on campus when they arrive. The Mail Room does not have space to store your packages, nor can it accept responsibility for the security of your property. You must be available to coordinate the transfer of all shipments to your apartment.

## **h. Security**

The Security Office is located on the first floor of Nurses Residence. General matters concerning Security should be referred to James K. Rogers, Director of Security, x7339. In case of an on-campus emergency, dial 1111 from a university extension. To reach security from the Graduate Student Residence or Sophie Fricke Hall rooms, or by cell phone, dial 212-327-7111. Further information is available on our website: <http://www.rockefeller.edu/security/>.

The University has an Advisory Committee on Campus Security that reviews current campus security policies and procedures and makes recommendations for their improvement, and reports to the University President on an at least annual basis. The reports are available upon request. The composition of the committee's membership is consistent with the requirements of Article 129-A of the New York State Education Law.

### Current Committee Members:

Student Members: Alexander Stuart, Krithika Venkataraman

Faculty Members: Agata Smorogzewska, Sidney Strickland (Alternate: Emily Harms)

President's Designees: Virginia Huffman (Alternate: Michelle Keenan); James K. Rogers (Alternate: Michael Murphy)

The Advisory Committee on Campus Security will provide upon request all campus crime statistics. For copies of these statistics, please contact James K. Rogers, Director of Security, at (212) 327-7339 or [jrogers@rockefeller.edu](mailto:jrogers@rockefeller.edu). These statistics also are posted on the University website at <https://www.rockefeller.edu/security/>.

## **i. Student Retreat**

The Dean's Office sponsors an annual student retreat. Its usual location is about 2-3 hours from New York City. All students are encouraged to participate. Students volunteer to coordinate presentations and other activities. This year's retreat will take place at Woodloch Resort in Hawley, PA (<https://www.woodloch.com/#main>) from Sunday, September 16 through Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

## **j. Tickets for Museums and Other Cultural Activities**

Opportunities to enjoy some of New York's premier cultural activities become available, from time to time, through the generosity of Trustees and other friends of the University. Passes are available allowing students and guests to visit and enjoy the amenities of the Museum of Modern Art or The Metropolitan Museum without charge. (Please note that two guests are permitted for The Met and five for the MOMA). A deposit of \$20 is required to ensure return of these passes, which can be signed out from the Dean's Office. From time to time, tickets are available for performances at the Metropolitan Opera.

### **k. Tri-Institutional Noon Recital**

Tri-Institutional Noon Recitals are sponsored by The Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Hospital for Special Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical School and New York Presbyterian Hospital. Recitals are held every Friday during the academic year from noon to 1 p.m. in Caspary Auditorium.