

**PhD Graduate Program  
in  
Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology**

**Rules, Policies, and Guidance  
2025-2026**

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### 1. Policies of the Graduate School

The Ph.D. Graduate Program in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology (MCP) has its home in both the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Stony Brook University. The MCP Program is subject to all of the regulations of the Graduate School. All regulations and policies of the Graduate School can be found in their Online Policy Manual in at

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/graduatebulletin/current/>

### 2. Administration of the Graduate Program

The Graduate Program is administered by a Program Director, Prof. Holly Colognato, who serves as Chair of the Steering Committee. The Director is assisted in administration of the Program by an Administrative Assistant, Ms. Odalis Hernandez. The Steering Committee is responsible for all policies of the Program. All decisions regarding admissions, academic standing, curriculum, and student petitions are made by the Steering Committee. The Program Director is empowered to make routine decisions that are consistent with the policies of the Steering Committee. Several of the faculty members on the Committee have defined administrative responsibilities, as noted in the *Appendix I*. At least one member of the Steering Committee is an elected (already advanced to candidacy) student representative. The election of the student representatives is held each year at the students' June monthly meeting.

### 3. Program faculty

Individuals with Faculty (or equivalent) appointments at Stony Brook University, the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories or the Brookhaven National Laboratory can serve as members of the graduate program. The Graduate Program Steering Committee decides faculty membership in the program. Faculty who join the program for the first time will receive, regardless of their rank, an initial 3-year appointment. Subsequent appointments will be for a 5-year term. Continued membership will be evaluated at the end of the initial 3-year term. Renewal of the member's appointment will be

contingent on the member's active participation in program activities, including attendance to the program retreat and student seminars, serving on qualifier exam committees and dissertation committees, serving as mentors for graduate program students, etc. Students joining the lab of a faculty member in their initial 3-year term will require a co-advisor from the program. The first MCP student to join the lab of any Program faculty member will require a co-advisor from the program. Faculty members with a strong record of mentoring PhD students may petition the Steering Committee for a waiver of the co-advisor requirement.

### 4. Registration and Student Status

Graduate students are required to register every semester, unless they are on a leave of absence. First year students who do not have an MS degree or extensive graduate course work have G3 status. These G3 students register for 12 graduate credits per semester in Year One. Once a G3 student has accumulated 24 graduate credits, they enter G4 status and will register for 9 credits per semester. After Advancement to Candidacy for the Ph.D. degree (see item 9 below) a student has G5 status, and will register every semester for the number of credits designated by the Graduate School (currently 9 credits).

#### NYS Residency

**All eligible graduate students receiving support and/or a tuition scholarship are expected to establish NYS residency as soon as possible after arriving at Stony Brook University. Failure to establish residency may result in the student being liable for that portion of tuition above the NYS rate.**

### 5. Required Course Work

The Curriculum of the Graduate Program is described in *Appendix II*. All courses specifically listed are required courses. Students are required to take one elective before graduation.

The Graduate School requires that a student maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or better. All of

the required courses must be passed with a grade of B or higher. All grades of B- or lower are evaluated by the Steering Committee. If a student receives two or more <B grades in mandatory courses, the Steering Committee may require that the course(s) be repeated or an additional course be taken. A student has only two opportunities to register for a given course. If a student again receives a failing grade (B- or less) upon repeating a required course, that student is subject to dismissal from the Graduate Program.

The Curriculum changes with time to reflect scientific and educational developments. The Steering Committee also makes allowances for students affected by curriculum changes. Students with significant earlier graduate level course work may petition the Steering Committee for waiver of any individual course. With adequate justification, students can also petition for substitution of an elective for a required course. MSTP students entering the Pharmacology Graduate program follow an accelerated curriculum, since they will have had earlier and relevant graduate level course work. The curriculum for MSTP students is described in *Appendix III*.

All pharmacology graduate students are required to attend two seminars per week as to pass the 1-credit course (HBH 590), although students are not graded on questions or presentation. First, the Student Workshop (Mondays at noon), and second, the Pharmacology Department Seminar Series (Tuesdays at noon). Students are strongly encouraged to be active participants in Workshops and Seminars, and to engage in asking questions of the speaker. There is a sign-in sheet to monitor attendance. At the Monday Student Workshop, Pharmacology graduate students present the results of their research to their committees, program faculty, and fellow students once every academic year. The departmental seminars are also held approximately weekly. Graduate students will sometimes be assisting departmental faculty in

hosting the seminar speakers. Graduate students will join most departmental speakers for lunch following the seminar to informally discuss their research and possible postdoctoral opportunities at their home institutions. These lunches are mandatory for first-year students, and strongly encouraged for all students when the seminar topic is of particular interest.

Journal Club (HBH 580: Selected Topics in Pharmacology) is a one-credit course requirement for for Spring of the first year and Fall of the second year. Topics for student-led presentations and discussions are approved by the course director(s).

In addition to academic coursework, students are required to participate in required Stony Brook Training.

## **6. Rotations and Finding a Lab**

Students are required to participate in three research rotations with Faculty members of the Training Program. (*Appendix V*). Research rotations serve several purposes. First, they are the principal mechanism for teaching practical laboratory techniques. Students should try to obtain a diverse laboratory experience during their rotations. Second, rotations give students an opportunity to read and discuss the literature in a specific field. It is expected that students will exert a significant effort to assimilate the scientific literature that will allow them to participate productively in decisions regarding experimental design. Third, rotations provide students an opportunity to determine whether a particular faculty member would be a suitable thesis advisor. Rotations also provide the faculty member a chance to decide whether to accept a particular student as a doctoral trainee. Faculty members generally wait for students to express an interest either in a rotation or in staying to complete a thesis. When students arrange rotations, it is important to explore the likelihood that the faculty member is willing and able to support an additional student. Faculty who anticipate that they will not have extramural funding or space for additional

students should not accept rotation students. A student interested in rotating in the lab of a faculty member who is not a member of the Graduate Training Program should obtain explicit permission from the Steering Committee (contact the Program Director) and should understand that it may not be possible to pursue thesis research in this laboratory unless this outside member is invited to join the Graduate Program. The membership of all Program Faculty is reviewed every five years. **For any student, only one rotation in a lab of a faculty member who is not a member of the Graduate Training Program is allowed.**

A student who is unable to find a laboratory after three rotations can petition the Steering Committee to permit a fourth rotation. If a student is unable to find a thesis laboratory after the fourth rotation, or if a student receives failing grades (below B-) in research rotations, then the student faces dismissal from the doctoral program.

The Steering Committee will consider petitions from students to waive a third rotation, if they have extensive prior research experience and have found a laboratory that will accept them. These petitions must be accompanied by a letter from the faculty director of the laboratory supporting the petition and guaranteeing financial support.

#### Rotation Reports

All rotation students are required to turn in Rotation Reports two weeks after the end of each rotation. The purpose of these reports is to gain experience in communicating their scientific research in short and comprehensible written form. One or two faculty members will be assigned each year to go over each student's reports. The guidelines are listed below:

- "abstract-like" format, ~2 pages, 11-pt. arial font, double-spaced
- State the *hypothesis* to be tested. Give the long-term objectives.

- State the *Specific Aim(s)*.
- Describe the *Research Design and Methods*.
- *Results / Discussion*: what they mean/ where to go from here
- *Bibliography*, if applicable (not included in page limit)

*A practical note to students:* Individual faculty members vary greatly in their expectations of rotation students. Some faculty members provide continuing projects that have been studied previously while others require more initiative on the part of the student. In general, the more initiative a student shows the better. Some faculty require extensive written reports, while others do not. During rotations, students are generally expected to exhibit a conscientious work ethic that may require them to work long days and to devote time on weekends to their research. Students should discuss in advance with their faculty advisors when they need additional time to prepare for exams or course projects, as necessary. Rotations are evaluated with a letter grade and a written evaluation following a discussion about the student's performance directly with the faculty advisor. Students should seek to establish a productive working relationship in a laboratory that provides a comfortable and intellectually challenging environment. The Graduate Program does not have a specific regulation limiting the number of students in a particular lab. Students considering labs for rotations should try to assess whether the faculty member will have sufficient time as well as space and money to facilitate the proposed research.

Changing Labs. Both students and faculty make a considerable investment in a thesis research project. If a problem arises at a fairly early stage, it is often a productive solution for the student to change laboratories. The Graduate Program does not assign laboratory rotations or compel students to work in particular labs. Similarly, the Graduate Program cannot compel an individual faculty member to accept or to retain an individual student. However, all students and

faculty members should understand that changing laboratories results in a loss of time on the part of the student and a loss of resources for the host laboratory. Maintaining open communication is vital to situations in which a project is proceeding too slowly or heading in what is perceived to be the wrong direction, and redirecting a project should be attempted when at all possible. Neither the student nor the advisor should take lightly the decision to terminate the student-advisor relationship. A senior student interested in leaving a laboratory must petition the Steering Committee for a change in labs. It is the responsibility of a student under these circumstances to find a new lab within the Program. *A senior student without a lab cannot pursue a thesis project and will be placed on academic probation*, under the conditions described below. The Graduate Program is structured such that student support is tied to the funding of the advisor's laboratory. A senior student cannot be supported for any extensive period of time by Program or Departmental funds. Every case of a student without a lab will be followed closely by the Steering Committee and the student will be expected to cooperate with the Steering Committee in efforts to find a new lab. If a student has been asked to leave a lab, an Academic advisor will be assigned to work with the student and the Administrative Assistant to help find a new laboratory.

## **7. Evaluations**

Advisors provide evaluations for each rotation. They should discuss the evaluation and the letter grade with their faculty advisor and rotation advisor. The evaluation should be offered as constructive criticism, providing advice on strengths and weaknesses (skills for future development). Students receive annual evaluations for their thesis research (HBH 599), although all research courses beyond Advancement to Candidacy are graded on a Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory scale. Faculty members are specifically instructed to avoid giving automatic As for research rotations and to bear in mind that a grade of C represents a failing

grade in Graduate School. The Steering Committee will investigate every instance of an Unsatisfactory or C grade to determine what improvements are needed.

## **8. Qualifying Exam**

The Qualifying Exam is administered in the Fall/Winter of the second year. Students must be in good academic standing (i.e., not on probation) to be eligible to take the exam. In addition, all required course work from Year One must be completed. The format for the qualifying exam is described on the program webpage:

[https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/mcp/pd-program/Rules\\_and\\_Policies/Qualifier\\_guidelines.php](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/mcp/pd-program/Rules_and_Policies/Qualifier_guidelines.php).

Following completion of the Qualifying Exam, the Steering Committee will decide if the student is permitted to prepare for defense of their research proposal. Since the Qualifying exam consists of a written and an oral part, students are expected to pass both parts. Failure to perform satisfactorily in one of the two parts may result in "conditional pass", which would require rewriting the written part or re-defending the oral part. If a student fails both parts of the Qualifying Exam, whether the student is allowed to retake the exam remains at the discretion of the Steering Committee. Students are maximally given two chances to re-defend their Qualifying Exam.

## **9. Starting Thesis Research**

After the student has decided on their thesis lab, the pharmacology department requires a signed statement from the selected faculty member in the Program indicating that the student is welcome to pursue thesis research in their laboratory with all necessary financial support to be provided by this host laboratory.

Students begin thesis research towards the end of their first year, even before taking the Qualifying Examination in early Year Two. Their first Student Workshop, will take place during

the Third Year. The Student Workshop is independent of defending a thesis proposal based on their thesis research before their Research Advisory Committee. However student's are encouraged to invite members of their RAC to attend their Workshops, and it is strongly encouraged and expected that Advisors will attend the Student Workshop and introduce the student presenter.

Thesis research is intended to provide a strong foundation for a productive career in science. Students are encouraged to focus their research towards answering significant questions that will lead to publication of their research findings. An adequate Ph.D. thesis requires at least one first author publication and typically encompasses several publications in peer-reviewed journals. Students, from their third year and above, are required to present the results of their research in an annual Student Workshop presentation, and in a poster at the annual Fall retreat.

#### ***Annual Graduate Program Retreat (Fall)***

The Annual Retreat is mainly a greeting for incoming students and features short talks by faculty members describing research opportunities in their labs. In addition, all students beyond the second year will present posters on their research. Attendance at the retreat is mandatory for all Pharmacology graduate students. An annual graduate student award is presented in recognition of the significant contributions of Dr. William van der Kloot to the development of the Department of Pharmacological Science at Stony Brook. The award is for excellence in research. Selection is based on publishing a first author manuscript in the previous academic year, as well as a nominating letter from the research supervisor. The Van der Kloot award recipient receives a \$500 honorarium.

#### ***Annual Student Symposium (Spring)***

The Annual Student Symposium is a student-driven symposium/retreat and includes research presentations by the students for their fellow students, and a talk by an outside speaker

chosen and invited by the students. The students facilitate all of the arrangements for this day, including public relations, accommodations, travel and schedule for the invited speaker. It usually takes place in early-to-mid June. Attendance is mandatory for all Pharmacology graduate students.

#### **10. Research Advisory Committee (RAC)**

In consultation with their advisor, a student selects a Committee of four faculty, including the advisor, to serve as a Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC is also known as the Thesis Committee. The selection of the committee should take place prior to the Student's first seminar. One faculty member outside the Program must be included in this Committee. In most cases this Committee will become the Thesis Examination Committee. The University requires participation of one faculty member outside of the graduate program in the final thesis defense, with a total of at least four faculty, including the Advisor. Changes in Committee membership are always possible, but the University requires advance notification of the composition of the Thesis Examination Committee. The Graduate School and Graduate Council have strongly urged that the outside faculty member be a true external examiner from another institution without a prior connection to the research project (not collaborators). Therefore, the Steering Committee strongly advises that a true outside advisor be on each student's Dissertation Committee for at least one year prior to the defense. This gives the student more exposure and also gives added legitimacy to the dissertation. The use of Zoom during the committee meeting and defense makes it possible to participate no matter the institutional location.

The advisor cannot serve as Chair of the RAC. It is important that all exam and advisory committees avoid any potential for conflict of interest. Therefore, the Graduate Program Steering Committee will not approve committees that include the spouse or

companion of a student's advisor. In situations where the proposed Committee includes close collaborators that may be co-authors on papers, the Committee may recommend the addition of another faculty member who does not share this close association.

To remain in good academic standing in the Graduate Program, each student must meet at least once a year with the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and make sure that the chairperson of the committee submits a report of the meeting for his or her file. If a committee report is not filed, the faculty member in charge of Academic Standing will discuss the situation with the Steering Committee. The RAC Committee will include Responsible Conduct of Research topics (authorship, mentorship, data storage, data management) in the meeting agenda.

Any changes in the faculty membership of a student's Research Advisory Committee must be requested in writing to the Graduate Program Office/ Director by the student in advance of the committee meeting. Committee members must be notified in writing after the approval.

### **11. Advancement to Candidacy**

After a student is advanced to candidacy, the only remaining requirement for the Ph.D. is the completion of the dissertation. Advancement to candidacy will require:

1. Completion of **24 credits** of graduate level course work, with good academic standing.
2. Completion of all of the courses specifically required by the Steering Committee as Core Curriculum.
3. Successful defense of the Qualifying Exam.
4. Preparation and defense of a written Thesis Research Proposal.

(<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/mcp/phd->

[program/Rules and Policies/Thesis Proposal guidelines](#)) with successful oral defense of the proposal in a meeting of the student's Research Advisory Committee. It is expected that this oral defense should be completed around the start, ideally before, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year fall semester (typically in the late spring or summer of year 2, or early in fall of year 3). Students should notify the Program Director giving the date for this Research Advisory Committee meeting and listing the faculty who have agreed to serve on the Committee. This notification should be provided prior to the Fall Semester. Any changes in the faculty membership of this committee must be requested in writing by the student in advance of their committee meeting.

The Proposal defines the general scope of experiments that the student, advisor and Committee consider sufficient for a Thesis project. The thesis research advisor is not permitted to participate in the defense of the thesis proposal, but is asked to return for the last 15 minutes of the committee meeting to discuss the critique of the Proposal with the committee members.

It is to be expected that a full thesis project will be sufficiently ambitious to encompass one or more publications in leading journals. In the course of research, a student may find that some of the original aims were unrealistic, or may uncover a new, more interesting line of experimentation.

A written evaluation of this Proposal defense must be filed with the Graduate Program by the Chair of the Research Advisory Committee. A copy of the evaluation should be provided to the student. For more information on the composition and role of the research advisory committee, see below.

It should be noted that enrollment into Advanced Graduate Certificates should take place PRIOR to Advancement to Candidacy.

### **12. Approaching the Thesis Defense**



A student making good progress in the graduate program will have met routinely with their advisory committee and will have one or more first-author papers submitted or published by the time they consider defending the thesis. Research advisory committee meetings should directly consider the question “How much more should be done before the thesis is ready to defend?” Students should have a final meeting with their committee in the months prior to the defense to obtain permission to defend the thesis and discuss post-graduation plans for the student. The written thesis should be reviewed by the student’s advisor prior to scheduling the defense, and the advisor should provide an email to the Program Director indicating that the student appears to be on schedule to defend by the stated date. To meet The Graduate School requirements, the student must provide the Program Director with the abstract, date, time and place of the defense four weeks prior to the defense.

Following the successful oral defense of the dissertation, written revisions should be completed within two weeks, so that the final dissertation, including signature page (electronic document), can be uploaded to the Graduate School.

### **13. Academic Probation**

The Graduate School automatically places students on Academic Probation when their cumulative GPA falls below 3.0. If this situation is not corrected by the end of the two subsequent semesters, the student will be dismissed from the University. These policies are described within the Graduate School Bulletin found at <https://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/graduatebulletin/current/regulations/>

The Graduate Program has additional guidelines for placing a student on Academic Probation. If a student remains on Academic Probation for two consecutive semesters, the Steering Committee may request dismissal from the University.

1. A student will be placed on academic probation if they receive two consecutive Unsatisfactory research evaluations or grades of C in research rotations.

2. A student will be placed on academic probation if they have not successfully defended a research proposal one year after completing the qualifying exam and been advanced to Ph.D. candidacy by the end of the third year of full-time study.

3. A student will be placed on academic probation if they have not had a meeting of their Research Advisory Committee within one month following written notification that they are delinquent in scheduling the annual meeting of their Committee.

4. A student with G4 or G5 status will be placed on probation one month after they voluntarily or involuntarily leave their sponsoring laboratory, if another faculty member has not been identified in the interim to serve as his or her thesis research advisor. A student on probation under these circumstances may continue attempts to find a new advisor and may petition the Steering Committee for continued short term stipend support.

5. At the end of the second year, a student not prepared to begin the Qualifying Exam due to failure to successfully complete required course work may be placed on academic probation.

### **14. Vacation Policy**

During the first year students are expected to be on campus for their laboratory rotations and the Student symposium from late August through the end of June. Students need to obtain permission from the Graduate Program Director to take time away from courses and rotations. Once a student officially joins a research lab, the research advisor is responsible for approving time off. Discuss vacation plans well in advance with your advisor in order to remain in good standing. DO NOT plan vacation between the end of course work in May and starting in your

research lab in June. For all Pharmacology Graduate Students, the Steering Committee suggests two weeks (10 business days) to a maximum of three weeks (15 business days) vacation each year. However, the vacation time period would be at the discretion of the advisor. If a student wishes to take more time off (e.g., foreign student traveling home for a month), they should take less time off the following year.

### **15. Master's Degree**

A separate MS in Biomedical Sciences with concentration in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology is available for students.

The PhD Graduate Program does not admit students on a MS degree track. Students who have satisfactorily completed 30 graduate credits including all of the course work required by the Program are eligible to apply for an MS degree. The Program requires a Master's Thesis to be read and approved by a faculty committee. There is no requirement for a Thesis Dissertation Defense for a MS Degree. A terminal MS Degree option is available to students who have not passed the Qualifying Exam. Students on academic probation with a GPA below 3.0 are not eligible for an MS Degree, according to University regulations. Students who have passed the Qualifying Exam are eligible to apply for an MS Degree, if they so desire, even if they are continuing in the Ph.D. Program. A MS Thesis is required in these cases.

### **16. Grievances**

Grievances with respect to grades, research evaluations or inappropriate professional behavior will be considered by the Grievance Committee of the Graduate Program at the request of the student. Grievances should be filed within a month of the event that needs to be evaluated. As mandated by the Graduate School, the six-member Grievance Committee is comprised of an equal number of students and of faculty selected by the Steering Committee (See *Appendix I*), Grievances that cannot be resolved by the Program Committee will be referred to the Grievance Committee of the Graduate School.

### **17. Financial Considerations**

In its offer of admission to prospective students, the Graduate Program offers support for the students at the current stipend level for the first year. Beyond the first year, all stipend support must come from faculty research grants or individual fellowships. Students that are awarded competitive individual fellowships that are at least half the current stipend will receive a 10% increase in their stipend. It is the intention of the Graduate Program that all students in good academic standing should receive full stipend support at current levels throughout their term of study. If a student in good academic standing is working in a lab that loses extramural funding, the Program will work with the advisor, the advisor's home Department, and the Graduate School to come up with a plan for continued stipend support. It is the advisor's department that bears financial responsibility for bridging funding for that lab. Students temporarily without a laboratory may petition the Steering Committee for support.

Students who receive stipends also receive a full tuition waiver (partially through payment of tuition funds from Department sources) throughout their term of training. Students must register full time and in a timely manner each semester or the Graduate School will revoke or reduce their tuition scholarship. It is the policy of the Graduate School that all out-of-state domestic students establish and file for New York State residency after the first semester to qualify for lower tuition.

### **Student Conference Travel**

All Ph.D. students are eligible to receive \$300 in conference travel funding from the Graduate Program. Students must petition the Steering Committee for travel funds, with funds to be used to defray the cost of travel or registration to present research results at scientific meetings. Requests for funds should include a detailed list of estimated expenses and be accompanied by a copy of the abstract of the research presentation.

All conference and workshop travel should be pre-approved by an email request to the student's PI or grant administrator to certify that the required funds are available. Approval prior to the commencement of the trip is also necessary to ensure that the traveler is covered by Worker's Compensation benefits.

In addition, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) has substantial funds for students who present at scientific conferences, or who undertake additional training at external courses. These funds vary each year so it is good to inquire as early as possible.

The Graduate Program does not provide funds for research supplies or for preparation of illustrations or theses. These costs are the responsibility of the sponsoring laboratory.

### **18. Teaching Requirements**

Students are required to serve as a Graduate Assistant for at least one relevant course as an academic requirement of the Program and of the Graduate School. This teaching requirement does not require appointment as a State Teaching Assistant, i.e., "TA". Currently, second or third year students will serve as GAs after they have successfully completed their Qualifying Exam. Graduate Assistants should register for the 1-credit course "Teaching Practicum in Pharmacology" (HBH 601) in the semester in which they teach. Most students participate in teaching HBH 401/501 or HBH 402/502 however the program accepts requests for alternative teaching or other GA assignments (see Program Director). Students who express an interest in obtaining additional teaching experience can participate in an advanced teaching program that involves participation in a pedagogy workshop, coaching by faculty and the development of an individualized teaching plan. See the Program Director if you are interested in additional training and teaching opportunities.

### **19. Degree Requirements**

See

[https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/mcp/phd-program/PhD\\_curriculum](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/mcp/phd-program/PhD_curriculum).

### **20. What to do if you are having difficulties...**

Building a sound foundation for a career in science during graduate school is a difficult and challenging undertaking. It is important to channel the pressure productively to enhance learning and research efficiency. It is not unusual for a student to feel stress or for the relationship with the lab advisor or other lab coworkers to become strained.

If you feel that academic pressures are excessive, you should speak with your assigned student or faculty advisor or the Program Director. The student representative or faculty members of the Steering Committee are also available to discuss problems. Keep these lines of communication open! Workshops on stress management and other counseling services are available on campus. The Program Director and Administrative Assistant will be happy to help you arrange to have access to these services.

If you feel you have not been treated fairly, first address the situation with your advisor, the Program Director and members of the Steering Committee. If the situation cannot be resolved, you have a right to file a grievance with the Program's Grievance Committee (Appendix I). It is best to reserve this option for situations that have not been resolved after extensive discussion between the appropriate parties. Filing a grievance prematurely may aggravate, rather than assuage a situation.

Several appeals and grievance procedures are also available in the University and can be found <https://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/graduatebulletin/current/regulations/>

These policies complement other means to address and resolve concerns of graduate students, such as the Graduate Student Organization, GSEU, the Graduate Student Advocate (GSA), and, for graduate research assistants, the Research Foundation."



## **APPENDIX I**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES, 2025-2026**

#### **PhD Graduate Program in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology**

##### **Steering Committee**

Dr. Holly Colognato	<i>PhD Graduate Program Director 4-7815. <a href="mailto:Holly.colognato@stonybrook.edu">Holly.colognato@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Dr. Michael Frohman	<i>Department Chair 4-3050. <a href="mailto:Michael.Frohman@stonybrook.edu">Michael.Frohman@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Dr. Paul Fisher	<i>Department Vice-Chair 4-3067. <a href="mailto:Paul.fisher@stonybrook.edu">Paul.fisher@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Dr. Styliani-Anna (Stella) Tsirka	<i>Student Advisor /Curriculum 4-3859. <a href="mailto:styliani-anna.tsirka@stonybrook.edu">styliani-anna.tsirka@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Dr. Christopher Brownlee	<i>Student Advisor/ Admissions; <a href="mailto:christopher.brownlee@stonybrook.edu">christopher.brownlee@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Dr. Joav Prives	<i>Curriculum 4-3139. <a href="mailto:Joav.prives@stonybrook.edu">Joav.prives@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Dr. Bruce Demple	<i>MS Graduate Program Director 4-3978. <a href="mailto:Bruce.demple@stonybrook.edu">Bruce.demple@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Dr. Dongyan Tan	<i>Student Advisor / Admissions. <a href="mailto:dongyan.tan@stonybrook.edu">dongyan.tan@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Ms. Rideeta Raquib	<i>Graduate Student Representative (Airola lab). <a href="mailto:Rideeta.raquib@stonybrook.edu">Rideeta.raquib@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Ms. Ruby Pan	<i>Graduate Student Vice- Representative (Takemaru lab). <a href="mailto:Ruby.pan@stonybrook.edu">Ruby.pan@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Ms. Odalis Hernández	<i>Program Administrator 4-3027. <a href="mailto:Odalis.hernandez@stonybrook.edu">Odalis.hernandez@stonybrook.edu</a></i>
Ms. Katie Houghton	<i>Dept. Administrator 4-3050. <a href="mailto:katie.houghton@stonybrook.edu">katie.houghton@stonybrook.edu</a></i>

##### **Admissions Committee**

Holly Colognato, Dongyan Tan, Christopher Brownlee, Ledong Wan, Gilbert Rahme, Joyti Misra, Odalis Hernández

##### **Student Representative**

Rideeta Raquib

##### **Student Vice-Representative**

Ruby Pan

##### **Grievance Committee**

Nate Sweet, Salma Balogun, Mark Maurelli

##### **Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Senators**

Nate Sweet and Ana Candia Flores (Jack Bauer, alternate)

##### **RA Union Representative**

Noah Brett

## APPENDIX II CURRICULUM 2025-2026

### FIRST YEAR

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>
<b><i>Fall</i></b>	
CHE 541 Biomolecular Structure and Analysis/Graduate Biochemistry	3
HBH 631 Graduate Pharmacology I	3
HBH 545 Biochemical Lab Techniques I	1
HBH 590 Seminars	1
HBH 599 Research	4
<b><i>Spring</i></b>	
MCB 656 Cell Biology	4
HBH 546 Biochemical Lab Techniques II	1
GRD/HBH 500 Integrity in Science/ Responsible Conduct in Research	0
HBH 632 Graduate Pharmacology II	3
HBH 590 Seminars	1
HBH 550 Statistics in Life Sciences (register in spring, take in winter)	1
HBH 599 Research	1
HBH 580 Journal Club	1

### SECOND YEAR

<b><i>Fall</i></b>	
GRD 600 Rigor and Reproducibility	1
HBH 590 Seminar	1
HBH 599 Research	4
HBH 560 Research Proposal Designs in Regulatory Biology (quals)	2
HBH 580 Journal Club	1
<b><i>Spring</i></b>	
HBH 590 Seminars.	1
HBH 599 Research	5
Elective (or fall)	3

***\*\*Thesis Proposal Defense should be completed prior to, or at, the start of the Fall Semester of Year 3***

### THIRD YEAR

#### ***Fall and Spring***

HBH 601 Practicum in Teaching Pharmacology	1
HBH 599 Graduate Research	8
-OR-	
HBH 699 Thesis Research (after Advancement to Candidacy)	8
HBH 590 Seminar	0

### DOCTORAL CANDIDATES (FOURTH YEAR and UP)

#### ***Fall and Spring***

HBH 699 Thesis Research (after Advancement to Candidacy)	9
HBH 590 Seminar	0

### SELECTED ELECTIVES

#### APPENDIX III

### MSTP GRADUATE PROGRAM IN MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PHARMACOLOGY 2025-2026

#### ***First Year Fall***

	Credits
HBH 545 Biochemical Lab Techniques I	1
HBH 590 Seminars	0-1
HBH 599 Research	0-9
HBH 560 Research Proposal Designs in Regulatory Biology (Quals)	2
HBH 580 Journal Club	0-1
MST 501 Sel Topics in Translation/Rsch and Clncl Pathological Correlations	0-1
MST 502 Clinical Scientist Seminar Series	0-1

#### ***First Year Spring***

MCB 656 Cell Biology	3-4
HBH 546 Biochemical Lab Techniques II	1
GRD/HBH 500 Integrity in Science/ Responsible Conduct in Research	0-1
HBH 590 Seminars	0-1
HBH 599 Research	0-9
HBH 580 Journal Club	0-1
MST 501 Sel Topics in Translation/Rsch and Clncl Pathological Correlations	0-1
MST 502 Clinical Scientist Seminar Series	0-1

***\*\*Thesis Proposal Defense should be completed prior to or at the start of the Fall Semester of Year 2***

***Second Year Fall***

HBH 590 Seminars	0-1
HBH 699 Research (after Advancement to Candidacy)	0-9
MST 501 Sel Topics in Translation/Rsch and Clncl Pathological Correlations	0-1
MST 502 Clinical Scientist Seminar Series	0-1

***Second Year Spring***

HBH 590 Seminars	0-1
HBH 699 Thesis Research (after Advancement to Candidacy)	0-9
HBH 550 Statistics in Life Sciences	1
MST 501 Sel Topics in Translation/Rsch and Clncl Pathological Correlations	0-1
MST 502 Clinical Scientist Seminar Series	0-1

**DOCTORAL CANDIDATES (THIRD YEAR and UP#)*****Fall and Spring***

HBH 699 Thesis Research	9
HBH 590 Seminar	0
MST 501 Sel Topics in Translation/Rsch and Clncl Pathological Correlations	0-1
MST 502 Clinical Scientist Seminar Series	0-1
# or, when Advanced to Candidacy	



## APPENDIX IV

### FACULTY OF THE PhD MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PHARMACOLOGY GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM

Please see Graduate Program in Pharmacology website for a list of the training faculty:  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/mcp/faculty/index.php#Alphabetical>

## APPENDIX V

### ROTATION SCHEDULE 2025-2026 FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

(\*Notification of lab selection no later than May 15, 2026)

	(SUMMER ROTATION)	FALL ROTATION	WINTER ROTATION	SPRING ROTATION
	~7/1/2025- 8/22/2025	8/25/2025- 11/26/2025	12/1/2025- 2/20/2026	2/23/2026- 5/22/2026*
<b>First Year Faculty Mentors</b>	Holly Colognato, Chris Brownlee, Dongyan Tan, Stella Tsirka			
<b>First Year Administrative Mentors</b>	Odalís Hernández, Katie Houghton			