

## THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SUMMER PROGRAM

Below I have listed a number of issues, in no particular order, that we need to think about when planning for next summer's research program. If you have comments on any of these or additional thoughts, please let me know.

- During recruiting visits to the PUIs, have interns/fellows from the previous summers' program present to speak or answer questions.
- Encourage the PUIs to publicize the presentations more effectively.
- On the application forms for interns and fellows, ask about their citizenship and visa status if they are not US citizens. This should help us avoid the problem we had with the Salem participants.
- Before the beginning of the program, inform the mentors and participants of the requirement to prepare a poster for the symposium. I think it came as a surprise to some.
- It would be good to have a separate meeting of BRIN personnel with the mentors before the program begins to discuss expectations and answer questions.
- Encourage 2 students to work together in a mentor's lab assuming the mentor can accommodate that. This occurred in two labs at WVU and both were positive experiences for the interns.
- While I encouraged interns to contact their mentors concerning the project and the mentors' expectations before arriving, I don't think many did. This should be encouraged more strongly including active participation by the mentors to contact the students.
- Reevaluate the first day's orientation session.
- Have a meeting with all participants about half way through the 8 week period to discuss how their projects are going and discuss any other issues that they may bring up.
- Schedule a picnic at a time other than near the end of the program when everyone is busy trying to get experiments and posters finished.
- Think about having the enrichment seminars at 4 PM rather than noon. It may help attendance. On the other hand, the students liked having lunch provided. It would be nice to have them on the same day each week, but speakers did not have that flexibility this time. Contacting speakers earlier might help.
- Try to tie in better with the NIOSH and Cancer Center summer programs.
- Have the mentors simplify the descriptions of their research so it would be more understandable to the applicants and have a standard format to be followed. In general, mentors with shorter descriptions had more applicants interested.
- Set date and location of the symposium right after the first of the year to be sure we get the location we want. My feeling is that it should be at either WVU or Marshall as that would be a better environment allowing interested parties outside of the BRIN to attend.
- Consider changing the length of the program to 9 or 10 weeks. Several of the students suggested this; however, we would not be able to offer any more

stipend money for the additional time. This change has pros and cons that we need to discuss as a group.

- Set up the funding for the mentors' laboratories to be active several weeks before the program begins. This will allow supplies to be ordered and present when the program begins.
- Work on the housing issue earlier. Most people found their own housing, and maybe that is what we should recommend rather than trying to set up opportunities for them. We could offer suggestions, but not be involved in trying to locate vacancies.
- Discuss whether BRIN personnel, interns/fellows and mentors should be reimbursed for out-of-town travel to the research symposium.