

## Policy on the Number of PhD and MD/PhD Students in a Laboratory

The training and supervision of PhD and MD/PhD students in the laboratory requires commitment of resources on the part of the thesis advisor. These include financial and material support for the research project, time and attention in the supervision and mentoring of students, and the participation of the faculty member in the coursework offerings and administrative activities of the student's PhD and MD/PhD program. The nature of graduate programs and training grants is such that they also derive benefit from a diverse array of faculty-student mentor-mentee relationships.

In support of such diversity and to encourage appropriate balance and a strong mentoring environment, it is reasonable to provide guidance on the number of PhD and MD/PhD students who may be trained at any one time under the supervision of a single faculty member. Currently the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences permits no more than four PhD (including MD/PhD) students in total to be under the guidance of an individual faculty mentor. In addition, specifically with respect to MD/PhD students, the limit per faculty member is further specified to include no more than one MD/PhD student from any one recruitment year, and no more than two MD/PhD students from any recruitment year, as part of the overall limit of four doctoral trainees simultaneously per faculty mentor laboratory.

At the same time, it is recognized that under exceptional circumstances, situations in individual laboratories may warrant a lower or higher limit. Faculty should consult with a prospective student's PhD graduate program director, and the MD/PhD program director for dual-degree students, as well as the faculty member's home department chair, prior to making a commitment to training a PhD or MD/PhD student. Requests to exceed these limits should be made in writing to, and will require approval of, both the student's program director(s) and the Dean.