

Andrew Venteicher
Neuroscience advising statement

Scientific training is a journey of dedication and perseverance, which results in scientific independence, confidence, and leadership. My goal is to serve as a guide, constructive critic, and supporter to ensure that my advisees develop the highest quality training and professional skills possible to achieve the next step in their careers. Towards this end, I expect that my trainees will pursue projects aimed towards answering fundamental scientific questions of interest to our laboratory with commitment, scientific rigor, and passion.

Research:

- **Commitment:** To ride the highs and tackle the lows of scientific research, I expect my trainees will pursue their projects with dedication and tremendous passion that is common in our trainees.
- **Data:** I expect my trainees to produce rigorous and reproducible data. Trainees must keep good notebooks/records of their research, since methods and data will be kept in the laboratory as legal evidence of the scientific rigor of their project after the trainee has completed their thesis. As such, it is important that these records be kept with sufficient detail so others can reproduce your results.
- **Design:** I expect my trainees to read relevant literature and incorporate into their research design as needed. We will work together to continuously review literature, design experiments, and interpret our data to develop next steps.
- **Authorship:** I expect my trainees to publish high quality manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. Trainees will be first author on their primary project. Multiple lab members and those in collaborating labs are expected to be co-authors as a given research project evolves. Order of authorship will be discussed openly.
- **Teamwork:** The nature of the work in our laboratory (and many others in modern biomedical research) is highly collaborative. I anticipate multiple co-authors who have participated in our work, and we welcome new research team members. Commitment to teamwork will serve you exceedingly well in developing your project in this laboratory, and it will set you up for success throughout your career wherever it may take you.
- **Independence:** I work with trainees to promote independence as a scientist to prepare them for the next step in their careers. I am committed to their continued success and look forward to being a constant advocate both during their time in the lab and throughout their career.

Meetings:

- **Individual meetings:** We will schedule periodic meetings (every 1-2 weeks) to review results and design next step experiments together. This may occur more or less frequently given the particular circumstances (for example, manuscript preparation and grant deadlines).
- **Lab meetings:** We will have a rotating schedule for members to present in our lab meetings. This should review background, findings, and experimental plan so all lab members can follow the logic and progression of the project.
- **Thesis committee for graduate students:** Trainees are expected to meet with their thesis committee as dictated by their graduate department, usually at least annually.
- **Conferences:** As the trainee's research develops, I expect that trainees will present sufficiently developed projects at regional and/or national conferences, ideally by their third research year.
- **Communication:** I expect trainees to develop written and oral communication skills by presenting in these various informal and formal environments with audiences of different backgrounds. This is a vital component of scientific training. Preparation of abstracts, manuscripts, and grants will hone the trainee's written skills.
- **Workshops:** Grant writing and communication workshops are available at the University and in departmental coursework, which are encouraged.

Funding:

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- **Stipend:** I will work to secure stipend funding for each advisee with the assistance of the University's training programs.
- **Fellowship grants:** Grant writing is an important skill for our trainees. Trainees are expected to apply for multiple training awards, which if successful will strengthen the trainee's record. The process of reviewing literature and grant writing is an essential way to focus on important gaps in knowledge in our field.

Professionalism:

- **Balance:** My advisees need to have physical, mental, and social wellness. I am always available and the University has dedicated resources to assist.
- **Lab citizenship:** Trainees like all others in the lab must help maintain equipment, cleanliness, and stocks of supplies.
- **Respect:** All lab members must treat one another with mutual respect and professionalism.
- **Leadership:** As training develops, advisees will naturally become leaders in the lab and will help train new students, technicians, and postdoctoral fellows. Having those who have worked with you become highly successful is a core principle to all of us at every level in academics.