Supporting the Research Process

Ideas for supporting your mentees throughout the research process

Planning the Research

✓ Directing to relevant literature
✓ Discussing merits and weaknesses of published studies (individually or in groups)
✓ Identifying important knowledge gaps in the field
✓ Framing relevant research questions
✓ Formulating hypotheses
✓ Articulating specific aims to address a central hypothesis
✓ Assessing the innovation and impact of research aims
✓ Defining the research timeline
✓ Identifying (and planning for) potential pitfalls
✓ Offering input on study design, sample size, recruitment of research subjects, inclusion and exclusion criteria, control arms
✓ Identifying funding sources for research
✓ Critiquing drafts of research protocols, grant proposals

Executing the Research

✓ Providing resources
✓ Navigating regulatory requirements
✓ Trouble shooting (e.g., when experiments don’t work, recruitment is slow)
✓ Offering feedback on data analysis and interpretation
✓ Exploring new directions

Disseminating New Knowledge

✓ Identifying relevant conferences (national, international)
✓ Supporting preparation of abstracts and presentations
✓ Critiquing presentation rehearsal
✓ Planning publications (how many, scope of each, authorship)
✓ Evaluating journal options (based on audience, specialization, impact)
✓ Outlining manuscripts, section by section
✓ Reviewing and editing manuscript drafts, explaining recommended changes
✓ Critiquing graphs and tables (content, style)
✓ Discussing reviewers’ comments and how to address them