

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 rehearsals
- ✓ 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