



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Schmidt College of Medicine

**Research Distinction Track (RDT)  
Independent Research Plan (IRP)**

This document outlines the student & mentor expectations and the student's research plan. Please complete and sign.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Institution/Dept \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part I. Student & Mentor Expectations**

1. Identify schedule and frequency for one-on-one meetings between Student and Mentor (e.g. Meet first Friday of the month 10-11am). The Student and Mentor should meet minimally three times per year to discuss and review this plan.

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2. Identify relevant seminars, journal clubs, laboratory meetings, grand rounds, and conferences for the Student to attend (e.g. attend weekly lab meetings)

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3. The Student agrees to complete the BMJ Research to Publication on-line training program (specific required course modules) by their Midpoint review.
4. The Student agrees to take substantial independent responsibility for the formulation of a hypothesis, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation. The Student should have a distinct and identifiable role in the project.
5. The Student agrees to not present any research findings from this project without the explicit consent and approval of the Mentor.
6. The Student must be in good academic standing at the time of application and remain so thru M4, defined as having passing grades in all courses, clerkships, and USMLE exams. They must also have completed and maintain current CITI Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) online training and attended all research sessions offered during the M1 year.
7. The Mentor agrees to provide on-going instruction, supervision, feedback and guidance in a timely fashion thru M4 year in support of the student fulfilling the RDT requirements.
8. The Mentor agrees to guide the Student in abiding by ethical standards for conducting research.



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9. The Mentor agrees to work with the Student on any resulting publication; this entails the RDT requirement of a scientific manuscript submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal as well as abstract preparation for a scientific meeting and/or the COM Medical Student Research & Scholarship Day.
10. The Mentor agrees to provide a letter of nomination on behalf of the student indicating support for the student's RDT application and a steadfast commitment to all items in this IRP.
11. The Mentor agrees to provide a graduation letter objectively reviewing the student's research and include a summary of the student's activities throughout the four years.
12. Both parties agree that no research activity will begin until all required trainings and regulatory approvals for the project(s) are in place.
13. Both parties agree to complete an evaluation survey prior to the graduation review.
14. Either party can terminate the agreement at any time.

### **Part II. Research Plan (5 page maximum, not including references)**

Please provide the following in your research plan and amend to this document for submission.

- Introduction/background to the research (including significance of research topic)
- Research Question/Hypothesis to be tested (include rationale for hypothesis)
- Specific Aims - Concisely state the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s)
- Study Design & Methods (include experimental and data analysis)
- References
- Timeline thru M4 with Milestone Expectations (e.g. required trainings, literature review, protocol development, IRB/IACUC/IBC submissions, participant selection/enrollment, perform/execute experiments, data collection and analysis, dissemination – presentation(s), manuscript preparation).

By signing below, we agree to the working parameters and expectations outlined above and that the accompanying research plan represents an original, independent research effort.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_