

Choosing a Research Project and a Research Mentor

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In choosing a research mentor recognize that...

- Mentoring involves a real commitment on the part of the mentor and mentee.
- It is important to define expectations including responsibilities on both sides, goals and plans for working together, and scheduled regular meetings. Mentees should make sure that they are actively rather than passively engaging their mentor as a partner, albeit from a position that by definition must be recognized as not equal.
- A mentor must have sufficient skills to help their mentee. Mentors must be able to be selfless.
- A mentor should be able to help their mentee address questions about promotion, networking, and jobs.
- Mentoring needs will change over time as the mentee matures as a person and researcher.
- Not all mentoring relationships are positive; as the needs of each changes, the ability to work in an effective partnership may change.
- The mentee may need more than one mentor, each providing different skill sets.