

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE
INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE PROGRAM IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Molecular Biology to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Executive Summary: The proposed name will more appropriately reflect the training and research activities of the program's graduate students and faculty, and help in recruiting graduate students who are interested in both areas of the program. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. There are no objections to the name change.

Background:

- ◇ The program was the first interdisciplinary graduate program at the University of Iowa and was known as the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program. In 1988, it became the Molecular Biology Graduate Program.
- ◇ The request for the name change resulted from an extensive review of the graduate program, development of a National Institutes of Health-funded training grant for support of the program, and discussions with program faculty and students.
- ◇ Faculty members are drawn from three colleges – the Carver College of Medicine, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Dentistry – and 15 departments in the colleges.
- ◇ The research activities of the 69 program faculty represent the full spectrum of areas in molecular and cellular biology and include strengths in the areas of cell growth and differentiation; cell organization and trafficking; gene expression and regulation; signal transduction mechanisms; molecular medicine; virology; and structural biology and function.
- ◇ The program curriculum was changed two years ago to balance the didactic coursework with equal emphasis on both molecular and cellular biology.
- ◇ The proposed name more accurately reflects the training and research activities of the program's graduate students.
- ◇ The University has indicated that a large cohort of prospective students interested in interdisciplinary training in both molecular and cellular biology has been lost; the name change will prevent future losses.
- ◇ The program name change will result in a change in the name of the degree to Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Details about the name change are on file in the Board Office.