

Dear David and Christine,

Re: QBIST Advisory Committee report 2019-2020

We have reviewed your report to the QBIST Program Advisory Committee. We applaud your efforts for continuing to successfully run this nascent program during the COVID pandemic of 2020.

We concur with your proposed activities during the 2020-2021 academic year. Our recommendation is that you pursue the eight goals that you have outlined in your report:

1. Ensure that the component on diversity and inclusion occurs and students from the prior year's cohort are able to attend
2. Ensure that the workshop on mentoring/leadership occurs and students from the prior year's cohort are able to attend
3. Introduce a new module to the QBIST workshop on Racism and Science which will include a lecture on the history of racism in science by David Gresham
4. Introduce a new session on Entrepreneurship and Startups presented by the NYU Entrepreneurial Institute to the QBIST workshop
5. Coordinate with GSAS on science writing focused workshops. Also, increase awareness amongst students for complementary writing workshops, such as those offered by the NYU School of Journalism on Science Communication
6. Ensure that second year QBIST trainees are able to undertake internships - possibly by seeking remote internship opportunities.
7. Enable first year QBIST trainees to undertake internships that were delayed due to the COVID19 pandemic - possibly by seeking remote internship opportunities.
8. Enhance integration between quantitative courses through collaboration between instructors teaching Biostatistics (Kris Gunsalus and Manny Katari), Applied Genomics (David Gresham and Manny Katari) and Machine Learning (Rahul Satija). Meet to discuss syllabi and ways of enhancing continuity between courses.

In addition, we recommend:

1. Avoid the term "soft skills" in future and instead refer to team-building skills and communication skills.
2. Seek ways of working with other other STEM programs on professional development.
3. Seek ways of integrating students into diversity, outreach and recruitment.

Best of luck in making these important additions to this exciting program.

Sincerely,

The QBIST Advisory Committee

Professor Susan Antón, Director, Faculty Diversity Equity Inclusion & Development,
Interim Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Science

Professor Jan Plass, Paulette Goddard Professor of Digital Media and Learning Sciences

Professor Liam Holt