**NH-INBRE Investigator Evaluation Guidance**

The purpose of this document is to communicate the criteria we will use to evaluate NH-INBRE funded Investigators. Who is a successful NH-INBRE investigator is an important question particularly as we are looking ahead to the 2014 External Advisory Committee meeting and renewal request.

These criteria can guide NH-INBRE Investigators towards a successful conclusion or continuation of their NH-INBRE projects. We anticipate that all current NH-INBRE projects will be permitted to submit a renewal application. These projects can be renewed or redefined and can be full (50% effort) or pilot (25% effort) projects, and both types can be projects that are collaborative with a faculty member from Dartmouth or UNH. All PIs of NH-INBRE projects are asked to make a presentation to the EAC at their November, 2014 meeting. These projects will receive the benefit of the External Advisory Committee evaluation and recommendations, which should be of use as renewal applications are prepared.

NH-INBRE seeks to enhance the research culture at the partner institutions in a way that is sustainable and self-supporting. This includes support of research projects and research training activities that engage students in original research. NH-INBRE research projects have scientific and training goals and NH-INBRE Investigators will be evaluated with a balanced view towards how those goals are being advanced.

**Evaluation criteria:**

The following criteria will be used to evaluate progress; it is not assumed Investigators will be strong in ALL criteria but Investigators should demonstrate progress toward achieving research and research training goals.

1. Assessing research progress
   1. Completion of original specific aims or modified aims developed in consultation with the mentor and the External Advisory Committee.
   2. Scientific impact and biomedical relevance of the scientific accomplishments.
   3. Publications, especially those in peer-reviewed journals.
   4. Presentations.
   5. Investigator participation in NH-INBRE activities including the annual meeting and research training activities at the institution and NH-INBRE partner institutions. This includes providing periodic research reports and other information requested by NH-INBRE.
   6. For collaborative research projects, demonstration of the success of the interaction between the Investigator and the co-Investigator at the lead institution.
   7. For all projects, the confidential recommendation of the Investigator’s mentor regarding scientific progress and ability to manage a research project.
   8. Additional evidence of progress provided by the Investigators will also be considered.
2. Assessing research training progress
   1. Student participation in research projects and subsequent demonstration of the effects of that participation (i.e., items listed below and academic/professional pursuits following graduation such as graduate school/research employment).
   2. Student attendance at conferences.
   3. Student participation at conferences (talks and posters).
   4. Facilitating opportunities for students to visit other NH-INBRE institutions and/or visit appropriate research institutions to conduct experiments, observe procedures, use instrumentation, or deliver a presentation/poster.
   5. Student participation in NH-INBRE activities including the annual meeting and research training activities at the institution.
   6. Student authorship on publications, especially those in peer-reviewed journals.
   7. Involvement of the Investigator in improving the broader student research culture at their institution. This includes inviting seminar speakers, organizing research presentations and poster sessions, advising students about career paths in biomedical science, spearheading new facilities/equipment requests that enhance research and teaching activities beyond those directly benefiting the Investigator. A special emphasis will also be given to Investigators that have incorporated research or new biomedical/behavioral research topics into their teaching curriculum.
   8. For collaborative projects, students at the partner institution interacting with students, postdocs, and the collaborating Investigator at the lead institution.
   9. Additional evidence of progress provided by the Investigator will also be considered.
3. Assessing sustainability
   1. NH-INBRE must produce Investigators that pursue externally funded research. However, most NH-INBRE research projects are not yet ready for this important step. Investigators will instead be evaluated on grant preparation activities (e.g., attendance at grant writing workshops). Attention will be given towards assessing if Investigators have taken strategic steps (e.g., Investigator articulates a realistic plan towards seeking specific grants) but also includes basic steps (e.g., Investigator submits an NIH formatted biosketch with renewal application).
   2. Renewal applications will be evaluated for institutional support / commitment going forward. This support will include non-grant related contributions (e.g., non-grant funded student research time, equipment and supply purchases, and institutional faculty time).