

Frequently Asked Questions: Internal Subject Matter Experts

What is the role of the Internal Subject Matter Expert in the Boot Camp?

With the advice of his/her department and other leadership as appropriate, each mentee will identify and contact an ISME prior to the start of the Boot Camp program. The ISME (i.e., a "personal scientific trainer") will advise an individual mentee on the scientific content of his/her NIH grant proposal.

Specifically, the ISME will:

- Help the mentee identify collaborators, resources, and skills that the mentee needs in order to be competitive in a precise field of research
- Work with mentees to plan Chalk Talks, an exercise designed to help mentees present and refine their specific aims
- Attend the mentee's departmental Chalk Talk
- Review proposal drafts and provide feedback
- Help the mentee identify an external (outside of UCI) reviewer to critique a final draft of the proposal

How are ISMEs selected?

The mentee – together with his/her department and other leadership as appropriate – will generate names of ISMEs who would be a good fit with the mentee's needs. Prior to the start of the program, the mentee should approach the ISME to ask about his/her willingness to participate in the Boot Camp program.

What do I do if I am selected to be an ISME?

The Boot Camp Manager will follow up with you and provide a copy of the ISME service contract for you to review and sign. Signed contracts will be due prior to the start of the Boot Camp program.

How does the role of the ISME benefit the mentee and the Boot Camp program?

Through the experience of serving as an ISME, you will be able to:

- Help guide the success of new investigators
- Contribute to the mentee's research design and rationale
- Share your wisdom and insight as an experienced researcher, reviewer, and faculty member
- Have the opportunity to learn about new technologies or methods
- Gain access to some of the other Boot Camp program activities
- Contribute to the research mission of UCI

Total estimated time commitment is approximately 16-20 hours (excluding optional components).

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What is the compensation for serving as an Internal Subject Matter Expert?

While the biggest compensation for serving as an ISME will be the satisfaction of contributing to the success of new investigators, ISMEs will receive \$1,000 discretionary funding for their service.