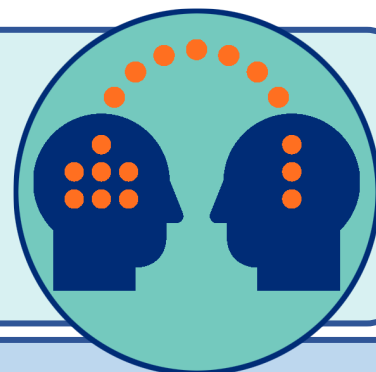


Tips for finding your Research Mentor for 3rd year

1. Think broadly.

- Map out your research interests.
- Identify potential faculty.
- Talk to your peers (do this in your first year, ie: how often they met with their mentor, tips, experiences, etc.)
- Talk to Dr. Sparks for a broader view of related faculty with interests that align with yours.



2. Think about how your potential mentor communicates and if this meshes with you.

- How frequently do you need contact? (different for all people) i.e. they don't email back for a week.... this might be their communication style.
- Does your communication style mix well with your mentors? (text, email, phone, zoom, etc.)
- Consideration of the size of the lab/group and the amount of time the potential mentor spends on research.

3. Ask practical questions.

- Where will I sit?
- Will I have a computer?
- What statistical support will I have?
- Have you mentored a med student (from Duke)? If yes... find that individual and contact them.
- Describe a few projects that you would have me on?
- Do you have time to mentor a med student?
- Are you an approved mentor for the 3rd year?
- Who will I work with day to day? Can I meet them?
- Schedule a second visit.



4. Never make your mind up on a first visit.

Think about it over the weekend or even take a week.

5. Get a sense for how you interact with the mentor. Is this someone that inspires you? Do you think you will both be able to work well together?

6. If you find an internal or external grant to apply to, let your mentor know.

Many mentors will be unfamiliar with med student specific grants. Send a follow-up email to your mentor to remind them of deadlines. **Apply!**

Questions? Reach out to John Roberts, MD, director of undergraduate medical education for the Duke Department of Medicine: john.roberts@duke.edu

More information:

<https://medicine.duke.edu/education-and-training/doctor-medicine>

