



Medical Neuroscience Graduate Program

Indiana University School of Medicine



From Molecules to the Mind

June 7, 2010

RE: Proposed changes to the Medical Neuroscience curriculum

Simon J. Rhodes, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies
Indiana University School of Medicine

Dear Dr. Rhodes:

The Medical Neuroscience program would like to reduce the number of required credit hours for the course work component of the Ph.D. degree. Currently, the number of required credit hours is 35; this would be reduced to 31 credit hours with the proposed changes in our curriculum. The essence of these changes are shown in detail in the Table on page 2: 1) elimination of PSY615; 2) moving D527 (Neuroanatomy) to the Spring semester of year 1, 3) a consequence of this move would make the IBMG electives optional courses that could be taken in the Spring semester of year 2 [We will encourage our students to take the IBMG electives in the Spring semester of year 2 to meet the needs of their research projects]; and 4) requesting that G743/G744/G745 be revised from 1 to 2 credit hour courses.

We believe that this reduction has several benefits for our graduate students. The most important advantage of this reduction is that by the end of the Fall semester of year 2, the students will have completed nearly all (except N711) of their required course work. This shift will allow the program to give the written component of the qualifying examination at the beginning of the Spring semester after which the oral component can be given to those passing the written component. This means that students will have completed their qualifying examinations and moved to candidacy by April-May of their second academic year. In the current curriculum, students do not complete the qualifying examination until October-November of their third academic year. Thus, the ultimate outcome of this reduction is that students will have more time to spend in their laboratories performing the research critical for their Ph.D. degrees.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Grant Nicol, Ph.D.
Showalter Professor Pharmacology & Toxicology
Director of Graduate Studies, Medical Neuroscience