

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

**Date Reviewed:** 10-13-10

**Documents Reviewed:** Letter from Dr. Rhodes, rationale for program change, curriculum outline, course descriptions with faculty names

### **Summary of Proposal:**

The Ph.D. Program in Biomolecular Imaging and Biophysics was formed because of changes in the curriculum to realign the former Medical Biophysics program with the many recent innovations in research in biomedical imaging, as well as its increasing importance to basic and translational research. These changes were approved in 2004, and the first student was recruited that year. To emphasize these changes a request was made in 2006 for an official change in the program name to ***Biomolecular Imaging and Biophysics***. Additional modest changes to the curriculum were approved in 2007 to accommodate the alignment of this and other School of Medicine Ph.D. programs as part of the Indiana University School of Medicine Biomedical Gateway (IBMG) program.

The revised program was launched with emphasis on imaging at the molecular and cellular scales, but the program did not have a large complement of faculty in the areas of *in vivo*/molecular imaging (imaging modalities typically associated with medical diagnostic imaging).

***We are now at a point where it is opportune to incorporate the full range of biomedical imaging approaches into the program.***

- 1. Are the goals clear and achievable?** Yes, the program builds on existing strengths—faculty and courses. The expansion is a logical next step.
- 2. Is the program academically sound?** Yes—it uses core courses, research courses and experience, electives, and dissertation credits to build a solid foundation while allowing room for individual student needs.
- 3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?** Probably, though this issue was only indirectly addressed by listing faculty names with course descriptions. A little more detail would be helpful.
- 4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?** Not addressed directly in the proposal.
- 5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...**

I think the program changes should be approved, with some minor additions to the proposal going forward:

- Be more specific about faculty resources—are these faculty already on board, or do you need to hire more?
- What is the relationship of this program to other units in the school— (question 4 on this form) is there helpful overlap with other programs?
- The description of minors is thin. Do you expect that all students will do internal minors? The proposal makes it sound like that is true, but more detail on minors would help.
- On the proposed curriculum page (2), 11 credits of new course work are indicated. However, 10 additional credits of new course work are described on page 7—so the total of new course credits is confusing. I think there are 21, but that should be clarified.