

## TPCB Thesis Co-Sponsor Policy

TPCB strongly encourages collaborations as an essential way to leverage the power of chemical biology in biomedical research. Many TPCB students have participated in fruitful collaborations between labs inside and outside of TPCB, leading to joint publications.

In the vast majority of cases, these students train primarily under the guidance of a single Thesis Sponsor, and gain additional training and mentorship in collaborating labs. They may meet regularly with collaborating faculty members, attend their group meetings, and, in the case of a collaborating TPCB Faculty member, have them serve formally on their Thesis Committee. This approach is highly effective as it provides flexibility to the student as projects develop and evolve naturally based on scientific outcomes.

On rare occasions, students may elect to pursue formal Thesis Co-Sponsorship by two (2) TPCB Faculty to train in two complementary scientific areas. To be effective, the student and both faculty members must be committed to collaborating throughout the entire course of training. If an initial collaborative project idea is not successful, as is often the case, backup plans must be in place to continue the collaboration. The student's thesis project should integrate scientific interests of both labs and should result in one or more joint publications.

To ensure a strong framework for effective Co-Sponsorship of students who chose to pursue this path, TPCB has established the following policy:

- 1) Both TPCB Faculty Co-Sponsors must commit to contribute equally to the TPCB Student's training. However, for administrative purposes, the Student must designate one Co-Sponsor to serve formally as their primary sponsor, with the other Co-Sponsor serving formally as a secondary sponsor. The Student will then be subject to the policies of and receive their degree from the graduate school with which the primary sponsor is affiliated (Weill Cornell Graduate School for MSK and WCM labs; David Rockefeller Graduate School for RU labs), in addition to being subject to all TPCB policies.
- 2) The Student must commit to attend all scientific events of both labs, including but not limited to group meetings, relevant seminars, and conferences. This may require that one or both labs adjust their schedules to ensure that the joint student can participate fully.
- 3) Both Co-Sponsors must commit to attending all academic events pertaining to the student, including but not limited to TPCB Research-in-Progress seminars, the candidacy exam, Thesis Committee meetings, and the Thesis Defense.
- 4) Both Co-Sponsors must commit to sharing financial support for the Student throughout training, including stipend, insurance, and fees, with their individual fractional share subject to the TPCB financial policies in place at their home institution. This may require that special arrangements be made to invoice and submit payments to the primary institution or cost center from a secondary institution or cost center. Unless agreed in advance by the Co-Sponsors, this shared support excludes lab supplies and reagents, core facility and CRO charges, and

### *TPCB Thesis Co-Sponsor Policy*

other specific research costs, which will be the responsibility of the individual lab in which those costs are incurred. Sharing of student travel costs for meetings should be discussed and agreed in advance by the Co-Sponsors.

- 5) The Student must have assigned workspace in both labs. This need not be a full bench, but must be specific, dedicated space that is available to the student at all times to conduct their research and attend lab meetings.
- 6) Both Co-Sponsors must serve on the Thesis Committee (including candidacy exam committees) but will count as 1 faculty member of the 4 TPCB Faculty members required. As a result, the student will have 5 TPCB Faculty members on their committee, including at least one who is not from the primary thesis institution. If the TPCB Faculty Co-Sponsors are at different institutions, inclusion of a TPCB Faculty member from the non-participating third institution is recommended, but not required. Neither Co-Sponsor may chair the committee.
- 7) In the event that a conflict arises between Co-Sponsors regarding the Student's training, the Co-Sponsors will bring the issue to the TPCB Director for mediation. If a resolution cannot be agreed, then the conflict will be subject to review and arbitration by majority vote of the TPCB Executive Committee (WCGS Dean, SKD Director, and DRGS Dean), in consultation with the appropriate institutional staff. Such conflicts may include, but are not limited to mentorship approaches, scientific priorities, publications, authorship, and intellectual property.
- 8) In the event that a Student wishes to formally terminate their Co-Sponsorship agreement, this will be handled as with any other change in mentorship and will be subject to approval of the TPCB Director and the relevant Dean(s) of the graduate school(s). The remaining Co-Sponsor will then be solely responsible for supporting the student financially and scientifically throughout the remainder of training.
- 9) As is the case for all TPCB students, formal Co-Sponsorship by a non-TPCB faculty member is not permitted except by special permission of the TPCB Director.