UC RIVERSIDE
School of Medicine
DIVISION OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

BMSC Graduate Program Faculty Meeting
Fall 2026
October 26, 2026
3:00–4:00 p.m.
Agenda

1. **General Announcements**
    - Introduction of Graduate Leadership
    - Announcement of New Program Faculty
    - DCFA Fellowship – 2 BMSC nominations

2. **Program Governance**
    - Forming BMSC Grad Program Executive Committee

3. **PhD Qualifying Exams**
    - Strategies to promote completion by the end of the 2nd year.
    - Plans to evaluate written part before scheduling of oral exam.

4. **Admissions Updates**
    - Upcoming Application Deadlines:
        i. PhD: December 1, 2026
        ii. MS: March 1, 2027
    - PhD Recruitment Structure (Two-Tier model)
        i. Virtual interviews (January 11-15, 2027)
        ii. In-Person Visit & Interviews (Friday, February 19, 2027)
    - **Faculty Participation:** Call for volunteers for the Admissions Committee

5. **General Discussion Topics**
    - Master's Degree
        i. Managing MS research experiences and placement amid growing enrollment
        ii. Establishing standardized guidelines for MS thesis expectations

    - PhD Admissions Model Evaluation:
        i. Discussion on transitioning from lab rotations to a direct "admission-to-fit" model (Pros & Cons)

6. **Open Floor**
    - Opportunity for attendees to introduce new items or topics for future meetings