

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE Ph.D. PROGRAM IN TRANSLATIONAL BIOMEDICINE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Ph.D. Program in Translational Biomedicine in the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the program resulted from a lack of enrollment. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The Ph.D. Program in Translational Biomedicine prepares skilled clinicians to pursue new knowledge about health and disease through patient-based research. The program’s goal is to support the medical research enterprise in its efforts to advance the prevention, treatment, and cure of disease. Students in the program are trained to conduct rigorous, original clinical investigations using basic biological and physiological principles. They receive didactic training and engage in substantial mentored research opportunities in disease mechanisms or etiology; new clinical insights into diagnosis or natural history of disease; objective assessment and outcome of therapeutic intervention; medical informatics; and development of new approaches to therapeutics.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** Since the program’s implementation in 2002, only 13 students have enrolled and only four have graduated from the program. No new students have enrolled in the program since 2012.
- ◇ **Five year trend in enrollments and graduations.** Between 2008 and 2012, there were nine applicants and eight enrollees. During that period, there were two graduates.

	Applications	Enrollments	Graduations
2012	3	2	0
2011	1	1	1
2010	0	0	0
2009	2	2	0
2008	3	3	1

- ◇ **Effect on current students.** As of May 2015, there was one remaining student in the Ph.D. program. That student will be allowed to continue working toward a doctoral degree. It is anticipated that the student will graduate in 2015.
- ◇ **Impact on resources.** The proposed termination is expected to have little or no effect on costs because faculty in this interdisciplinary program will continue to teach in their home department as well as in the existing Master of Science Program in Translational Biomedicine.

- ◇ Impact on workforce. Minimal impact on the workforce is expected because the existing Master of Science Program in Translational Biomedicine will continue to serve the educational needs of the translational science clinical workforce.
- ◇ Alternative programming. Students interested in Translational Biomedicine will have an opportunity to enroll in the Master of Science Program in Translational Biomedicine. There are no other post-secondary institutions in the state that offer a Ph.D. Program in Translational Biomedicine.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, suspension of admissions to the program will become effective immediately and will be reflected on the department website and University Catalog. Termination of the program will become effective upon completion of the program by the doctoral student who is currently enrolled.