Mentoring Document

Each applicant must provide the name of a faculty mentor for the project covered in the grant application. This may be a mentor that is assigned by their department or another faculty mentor who has expertise in the field and is willing to provide the mentee with technical assistance. The mentor’s NIH Biosketch and a letter from the mentor must accompany the application. If the mentor is from an Institution other than the University of Louisville, they should seek pre-approval from the Chair of the research committee.

**The mentor’s letter must include a statement that describes why the mentor is willing to take on the investigator, and the follow statement: “I certify that I have read and approved the application of (insert mentee’s name).”** The following are recommended topics that the mentor should consider including in their letter of support:

1. Evaluation of Investigator/Project:

A. Project Significance

1. In the mentor’s view, how will the results of the project fill a gap in the knowledge in the field?

2. Is the project of sufficient significance to score well in an extramural grant review?

B. Investigator:

Will and how will the project help to establish the PI as an independent investigator in this field?

 C. Project Innovation

 D. Timeline for mentoring

2. Career Development Experiences for the Investigator

A. The institutional/departmental environment to expand the investigator’s overall view of the field?

B. Specific opportunities that the mentor may provide to expand the investigator’s intellectual development?

C. Are there language issues (written/oral) and are there opportunities provided to aid the investigator?

D. Milestones toward independence

3. Expansion of Investigators Research Capabilities

A. Does the investigator need to develop/ learn new techniques to be competitive?

B. Where are those skills available and should some of the funds be used for this purpose?

C. Will the results of the experiments and/or new techniques establish the reputation of the investigator in the field?