

Mentor Focus Group Questions
SoCal BSI 2006 (n = 3 mentors attended meeting)

Red text indicates how we responded to mentor suggestions in 2007 or ** failed to respond.

- 1) **What part of your involvement in the SoCal BSI Program met or exceeded your expectations? Please explain why or how.**

Nothing indicated (NA)

- 2) **What part of your involvement in the SoCal BSI Program disappointed you? Please explain your response and/or suggest ways to improve the program with respect to the issue that you have identified.**

** - there needs to be more mentor involvement in the creation of the final project presentations – for example,

mentors need more direction about what they should be doing (they apparently do not receive the final presentation evaluation rubric or the timeline in a timely fashion) **Ronnie's 2007 memo to mentors has resolved issue.**

** mentors should be told to have students give their BSI presentation at a lab meeting prior to the final symposium presentation

** mentors should be required to sign off on the presentations made on Fridays at the professional development sessions at least 2-3 times during the institute

- mentors should give information to BSI students about their Ph.D. programs (NA for 2007)

- there should be a SoCalBSI website specifically for mentors that has information about their responsibilities, deadlines, time tables and links regarding “how to be a good mentor” **2007 mentors said not needed**

- 3) **What would you suggest would be a valuable second year experience for returning SoCal BSI students? **See 2007 document****

- A team-based project?

- a second year student paired with a first year student so that the second year student would get a “mentoring” experience?

- 4) **The SOCal BSI program is unique among BSIs in that it offers a didactic instruction phase. How familiar are you with the content of the didactic instruction phase of the SoCal BSI?**

Not very familiar **Ronnie's 2007 memo to mentors has resolved issue.**

What topics do you feel are appropriately covered in the didactic phase of the institute?

No input – see above

- 5) **The SoCal BSI program also contains a professional development component. How familiar are you with the content of the professional development phase of the SoCal BSI?**

Not very familiar **Ronnie's 2007 memo to mentors has resolved issue.**

How useful do you feel the professional development phase of the institute is to your student's overall growth as a professional scientist?

No input – see above

6) Would you recommend to a colleague that they accept a student in the SoCal BSI Program? Please answer either NO, YES, or YES WITH RESERVATIONS. Please explain your response.

Not covered

7) Do you have any other comments about the SoCal BSI Program that you would like to make at this time?

** - Perhaps mentors should rank potential students into quartiles (versus current process) in order to better identify appropriate student/lab matches

- try an all day final presentation format so that all mentors are present for all presentations **done in 2007**

** - mentors should meet early on with students – before they are assigned to a site – i.e. final assignments should involve students, mentors and PIs

- need to identify the “actual mentor (contact person, i.e the individual responsible for day-to-day interaction with the student)” early on to ease the integration of the student into the lab **+/- done in 2007**

** - potential students should meet with the potential lab groups early in the process for an interview and lab tour