

Mentoring Plan Statement

Dr. Melinda Duncan, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Delaware, will serve as Dr. Jin's mentor for the ACCEL MRDA grant application. Dr. Duncan is a world expert in ocular disease pathophysiology, is funded by two R01 grants from the National Eye Institute, is a Fellow of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), and is in the midst of a five year term as ARVO trustee. Her expertise in ocular disease pathogenesis will complement Dr. Jin's expertise as a MD/Ph.D. trained pediatric ophthalmologist. Dr. Duncan has served on numerous NEI/NIH study sections, is a member of the ACCEL education committee, and has been continuously funded by NEI for 22 years and therefore can provide unique insights and mentoring to Dr. Jin as she develops her research project into a long-term federally funded program on ocular disorders. Her co-mentor, Dr. Melissa Alderfer is an expert in sickle cell disease and long term collaborator of Dr. Jin's who will provide mentoring in working with working with pediatric sickle cell patients and clinical research at Nemours.

Dr. Jin, will develop expertise in Translational research in the areas of pediatric retinal disorders and will develop her project ideas first into ACCEL/INBRE pilot projects under the guidance of Dr. Duncan with the longer term goal of applying for R01 level funding in this area. Drs. Duncan and Jin have been meeting regularly in person since the summer of 2018 to discuss her projects as well as touching base by email and these meetings will continue under the ACCEL MRDA award. These interactions will (i) assure that she progresses toward the submission of the project outlined in the MRDA proposal for funding; (ii) will guide Dr. Jin to the appropriate research resources available through the ACCEL program and its affiliated institutions; (iii) provide advice and valuable feedback regarding research design, data analysis, grant application preparation, and scholarly manuscripts/oral presentations; (iv) provide advice and insight into administering a laboratory including, mentoring of students/staff, conflict resolution and financial stewardship (v) serve as an advocate for Dr. Jin within ACCEL and at external institutions to assure professional development.

Dr. Jin, under the mentorship of Dr. Duncan, will define her short-term, mid-term, and long-term career goals by completing an online Individual Development Plan (IDP) prior to initiation of MRDA funding. The aim of these goals within the IDP will be to establish Dr. Jin's reputation as a clinician-scientist, by advancing her scholarly productivity following a time-line consistent with his overall workload. Mentoring meetings will be used to review and modify/update the IDP as deemed necessary by her mentors. Dr. Jin will use the IDP and mentoring meetings to (i) develop a viable research strategy including hypotheses, aims, approaches, potential pitfalls, and alternative approaches for her ACCEL pilot grant submission; (ii) outline needs for new or enhanced research, teaching, and leadership skills and specify approaches (e.g., courses, seminars, workshops, etc.) to meet these needs; (iii) document scholarly activities and develop interactions with other scientists and potential collaborators, as well as identify additional research mentors; (iv) discuss and strategize grant submissions and publication of research manuscripts; (v) balance time for research and scholarly activities and secure support from department chair or supervisor; (vi) plan and strategize for a career in translational research while balancing teaching, educational, and other career objectives.