

revised 10/9/2009

## The Mu lab at Penn State University College of Medicine

**Expectation for graduate students and postdoc fellows:** I expect you to be in the laboratory by 9:30am at the very latest. Our research field is very competitive and your competitors are all working diligently. Therefore, you will not be able to complete interesting projects in such a competitive field in a timely fashion without a similar commitment (in plain English, we wish to publish our findings before our competitors do). This means a work schedule of **minimally** 50 hours per week that consist of **several evenings per week**, as well as **frequent weekends** (**Honestly, working at least 50 hrs/wk is the barebone requirement for you to begin thinking about success. In reality, every single successful and productive researcher works more than 50 hrs/wk**). **Students/postdocs wish to coast and relax their way through Penn State must stay away from my lab.** Within these guidelines, I am flexible about when you arrive in the morning and leave in the evening, and in letting you do data analysis and writing at home.

**Junior graduate students:** Junior graduate students who are attending classes or fulfilling other requirements for your degree have other important obligations, and the number of hours you spend in the laboratory will be adjusted accordingly. In terms of the comprehensive examinations required for graduate students, I expect that students take and pass them in the summer of their second year at Hershey.

**Research spending:** Research is a very expensive activity. I expect to provide you the resources required to conduct your research projects. At the same time, you must refrain from being wasteful. Thoughtful planning of experiments must be exercised to conserve the precious grant money that we receive from governmental and non-governmental agencies.

**Basic Lab Etiquette:** A laboratory is a mini-society, consisting of people of different background and experiences. It is critical that you act professionally and friendly to foster an amicable and productive work atmosphere.

I will do my best to be not only a supervisor of your research project, but also a mentor of your career. I encourage that you communicate to me your expectation of me as a member of our laboratory.