August 2013

Dear Incoming PhD students,

Welcome to Brown! I trust your summer is going well and that you are preparing for your entry into PHD Graduate Training at Brown. I look forward to meeting you in the coming months! My office is within the Division of Biology & Medicine and we work with the BioMed Graduate Programs and the Graduate School to enrich your graduate training. This is an exciting time for you and for the Division; Brown has a strong commitment to the quality of graduate training and research being done by our faculty and students.

All PhD students at Brown University are admitted to the Graduate School but you are also affiliated with The Division of Biology & Medicine. My office will serve as a resource for you during your training. My office offers professional development seminars and events and conference travel assistance for students. I also lead the Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) sessions which is a requirement for all entering PhD students in BioMed programs. Our website is a good source of information for you --http://biomed.brown.edu/grad-postdoc/. It is our goal to provide you with a variety of information on seminars, activities, and events that will enhance your graduate study and student life at Brown. Be on the look-out for our “Weekly update” which is sent every Friday.

All of us in the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies wish you good fortune as you pursue your advanced degree, and we hope you will contact us if we can help you along the way.

The Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Staff:

- **Tracey Cronin**, Graduate Program Manager
- **Susan Rottenberg**, Postdoctoral Studies Manager
- **Brenda Slaney**, Training Grants / Student Fellowship Coordinator
- **Cheryl Whiteside**, Financial Manager

Contact information:
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Best wishes,

*Elizabeth O. Harrington, PhD*
Associate Dean
The Graduate School has been in touch with you over the past month or so with information about orientation, general introduction to Brown graduate training and a lot of very valuable information which I hope you have reviewed.

Graduate School Orientation is Friday, August 30, 2013 and you should plan to attend. There is also an earlier orientation for International Students on August 23, 2013.

Please join me for the “Welcome to the Division” Ice Cream Social on August 30 @ 2:30 in the Sidney Frank Hall Atrium.
The Division of Biology & Medicine is home to the Program in Biology and the Warren Alpert School of Medicine. Brown University’s seventh dean of medicine and biological sciences will be Dr. Jack Elias, a specialist in pulmonary medicine who currently serves as the chair of medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Elias will begin work at Brown Sept. 1, 2013, succeeding Dr. Edward J. Wing.
Get to know your community: Brown, Providence, and Rhode Island

• A map of the campus –  
  http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/Facilities_Management/maps/

• Visit museums, get tickets, attend Waterfire, and eat at the city’s best restaurants  
  http://www.goprovvidence.com/

• Day-trips to the beach, scenic tours, and cultural events throughout the Ocean State  
  http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/what-to-see/
Important items we’d like to bring to your attention:

- I encourage you to activate your email and User ID at Brown as soon as possible – it is the best way to receive important notices from a variety of offices at the University. You will receive notices that will need your attention.

- You have likely received notices from the Bursar’s Office at Brown. For those PhD students accepted with full support, please note that charges for tuition, health fee, and insurance will be paid by Brown and these charges will soon be credited on your account. You are encouraged to monitor your student account to ensure that all charges are correct and that your account is up to date. Some charges are a student’s responsibility and they must be paid on a timely basis.

- There are two skills development modules offered in August, including a session geared especially to incoming PHD students, “De-mystifying the PHD Experience” and a session entitled, “Reading Scientific Publications”. Please consider checking out this site for information about these modules and contact my office or your Graduate Program Director if you are interested in participating: http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd/training/

- **Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) Course** is an introduction to important ethical and professional codes for the proper conduct in research. It is a requirement for graduation and for all individuals participating in research funded by the NIH and the NSF. **Participation in the RCR Course is mandatory for 1st year students.** Training will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 4 – 6pm beginning 9/10/13 until 10/22/13. Please plan accordingly. Registration is not needed but your attendance is required.

_We all look forward to seeing you soon!!_

Built in 1901, the Van Wickle Gates bear famous distinction at Brown. The large central gate stays closed throughout the school year, except on two annual occasions. First, they open to welcome new students into the university, and then during commencement, graduates pass through the gates again, before tossing their caps in the air.