



# Mentoring to Achieve Research Independence (MATRIX)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

## MATRIX COACH APPLICATION

The MATRIX program is a multi-tiered 9-month mentoring program coordinated by SMPH to support and increase the success rate of UW-Madison faculty who are applying for their first NIH Research R01 or equivalent grant. Coaches (mentors) will be paired with mentees in this program. The program will launch in January and include:

*Coaches:* Senior UW-Madison faculty with established track records of external funding serve as a process expert, not necessarily the *scientific* expert needed for each mentee's grant proposal.

*Internal Subject Matter Expert (ISME):* An established UW-Madison faculty researcher, identified by the mentee/department/coach, who is asked by the mentee to participate in the MATRIX program for scientific guidance, prepare for Chalk Talks, and review and provide feedback on proposal drafts.

*External Subject Matter Expert (ESME):* A faculty outside of the UW, expert on the subject of the R01 proposal, who is willing to review and write a confidential NIH-style report of the R01 proposal. The MATRIX staff will contact ESMEs on behalf of the mentee.

Coaches, mentees, and ISMEs can be from any department, school, or college on the UW campus.

### FACULTY COACHES (MENTORS)

#### **Coach's Responsibility**

One coach will be assigned to a group of 2-4 mentees (*a pod*). Two pods (*a team*) will meet together for ~2-hour monthly meetings, January through October. Coaches will guide the group through NIH policies and practices and the development of an R01 equivalent grant application.

Small group (pod) activities include helping to determine a realistic deadline for each mentee, advising them on developing sections of a proposal, and reviewing proposals in the group. Coaches will assist in finding answers to other issues that may surface, such as how to contact NIH Program Officers or select a study section. MATRIX Administration ([matrixmentoring@med.wisc.edu](mailto:matrixmentoring@med.wisc.edu)) is a resource for coaches and can arrange for additional expertise when requested by the coach/pod.

Each team is self-governing. Coaches will have a **hosting budget** to support meetings and, together with the team members, determine when they will meet, e.g., breakfast meetings, working lunch, etc. The MATRIX administrators will provide a dedicated team folder in Box for members to upload and share proposal sections for review. Individual team folders are only accessible to designated members.

#### **Benefits of Becoming a Coach**

- Share knowledge you have gained
- Guide and encourage new researchers
- Learn about new technologies and discoveries
- Work in an interdisciplinary/translational group
- Contribute to the research mission of UW-Madison
- Receive \$2,000 in salary per mentee (up to 4), plus \$500 for hosting expenses per team

## Eligibility for Coaches

Applicants must:

- Be faculty members with primary appointments as associate or full professors affiliated with any department, school, or college on the UW-Madison campus
- Have been a PI on at least one NIH R01 grant proposal
- Have experience as a grant reviewer (ideally NIH)
- Have demonstrated interest and experience in mentoring

## Selection Process

Selection will be made based on:

- Strength of experience both as an investigator and a mentor
- Match with scientific composition of mentee teams

## TO APPLY:

**For consideration to be a coach**, please submit your application through the [online](#) portal by **December 15** at the following link: <https://intranet.med.wisc.edu/research/matrix/>. The online portal is found by scrolling to “**Coach’s Information and Application Process**” (see snip-it below).



The screenshot shows a red header with the text "MATRIX Components and Application Process". In the top right corner of the header, there are links for "Expand all" and "Collapse all". Below the header is a list of menu items, each with a plus sign icon. The items are: "+ MATRIX Activities and Timeline", "+ Mentee Information and Application Process", and "+ Coach's Information and Application Process". The third item is highlighted with a yellow background.

## The application must include the following:

- Name, affiliation, and contact information
- NIH Biosketch (up to 5 pages); you may use the “Personal Statement” to describe your interest in mentoring.

## Note that coaches are required to attend the following events:

- Opening Ceremony (January TBD)
- Monthly Team Meetings
- Mid-Point Event and NIH style Mock Review (June TBD)
- Closing Ceremony (October TBD)

If you have any questions, please email [matrixmentoring@med.wisc.edu](mailto:matrixmentoring@med.wisc.edu)

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