

T32 Focus Groups: Trainee Perspectives

Example Script:

- 1) Main question: What **ASPECTS OF YOUR PROGRAM** do you feel **ALL doctoral/postdoctoral trainees in your program** gain value from participating in?
 - a) Probe for: What experiences have led you to feel these are essential elements? What examples can you share in how you've utilized these topics or skills in your career?
- 2) Main question: What **TYPES OF ACTIVITIES** do you think could help trainees learn crucial topics in your discipline most effectively (e.g. certain projects, presentations, internships, guest lecturers)?
 - a) Probe for: What activities or experiences helped you learn the most important lessons about the being a scientist in your discipline? In what ways have you taught these topics to students, mentees, etc.?
- 3) Main question: In **WHAT CONTEXTS** do you think these topics and skills are best taught? (e.g. in the classroom, during an experiential rotation, during an internship)
 - a) Probe for: In what ways have you taught these topics to students, mentees, etc.?
- 4) Main question: In what ways could we **ASSESS** trainee understanding of scientific training?
 - a) Probe for: What does it look like when a trainee exhibits the knowledge and skills we've discussed?

Additional Probing Questions (use spontaneously when needed):

- 1) Can you tell me more about that?
- 2) Would you explain that further?
- 3) Can you give me an example?
- 4) Is there anything else?

WRAP UP (5 minutes):

Is there anything that I neglected to ask about that you think is a critical component to the design of our program evaluation? Or is there anything you would like to add to what has been said?

This has been very helpful. Thank you very much for your time today. Please feel free to contact us if you have additional thoughts about what we discussed.