NEUROBIOLOGY JUNIOR THESIS PROPOSAL FORM

For 6th semester students (typically junior spring) considering writing a thesis

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

**** * * NOTE: DO NOT USE THIS FORM IF YOU ARE ENROLLED IN NEURO 91R * * ****

Please complete this 2-page form (with appropriate signature) and attach your thesis proposal as described on page two. Proposals are due to the Life Sciences Undergraduate Office by **5 PM Wednesday, May 4, 2016**. You must also submit a copy of your report to your lab director.

The Head Tutor and the Concentration Advisor will review your proposal, and you will be notified over the summer with feedback. This form should be submitted if you are considering writing a thesis, but does **not** obligate you to do so.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. Ryan Draft or Dr. Laura Magnotti, Neurobiology Concentration Advisors (draft@fas.harvard.edu , magnotti@fas.harvard.edu).

Part A. Complete the following sections:

Student Name:	**HUID**:
Thesis Title: (May be tentative – Be sure to review title with your research director before submitting.)	
Email:	

Research Lab Director: (*GRADUATE STUDENTS OR POST-DOCTORAL MENTORS SHOULD NOT BE LISTED HERE.)* (Please print)	
Address:	
Telephone:	**Email**:
Director's Signature: (*GRADUATE STUDENTS OR POST-DOCTORAL MENTORS SHOULD NOT SIGN HERE.)*	

Daily lab supervisor (if not Research Lab Director): (Please print)	
Telephone:	**Email**:

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Part B. Attach your thesis proposal to this form (as a .docx file if possible). Do not exceed **3-4 pages (double spaced).** Include the following:

- Background & Rationale: In approximately 1-2 pages (double spaced), introduce your broad topic and provide a background for your research project. You should read the relevant literature and provide a brief context for the question(s) you plan to address. Begin this section by broadly introducing your topic, then focus in on any pertinent background studies (not just from your own lab but others as well), and eventually end with a statement of your specific research question/s. A reader should be able understand why you are asking your question/s, based on what you describe in this background section about earlier work, current debates in the field, etc. You can think of this section as eventually being developed into your thesis introduction.

- Experimental Approach: In approximately 1-2 pages (double spaced), describe the experiments you plan to complete in the coming year. Include the specific methods you will use. Provide enough detail so that the reader will have a clear idea about what you plan to do in the lab. We will use this section to make sure that your project will be appropriate for a thesis in Neurobiology. Do not just describe the overall research plan of your host laboratory, but try to be specific about the work you plan to do. Your research director and your mentor should help you to define your specific role in the project. Also, make sure that your mentors read a draft of your proposal for suggestions and revisions.

- References: Provide key references regarding the background and experimental design of your project. Provide complete reference information (authors, year, title, journal, volume, pages numbers, etc).

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PLEASE SUBMIT THIS 2-PAGE FORM WITH SIGNATURE AND ATTACHED PROPOSAL BY:

5 PM Wednesday, May 4

Email your report to your lab director and return these completed forms to the Life Sciences Advising Office: Biolabs 1082C; James Poolner (jp@mcb.harvard.edu)

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