

Mentorship Initiative Network of ISO RED (MINI)

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Question 1: What is MINI?

Answer: MINI is a mentorship program. Through the program, **graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career investigators** (assistant professor level or within 5 years of terminal degree) interested in radiation epidemiology, statistics, or dosimetry are matched with more senior scientists conducting research or otherwise working in these fields. **The goal of MINI is to expand access to extracurricular career guidance and professional development for early career scientists.**

Question 2: How long is the program?

Answer: This is a **one-year program**, but mentors/mentees can decide if/how to continue the relationship at the end of the year. Mentors/mentees are expected to meet for one-to-one conversations at least once every 2 months (i.e., 6 times per year), with the option to connect more frequently as needed/mutually agreed upon.

Question 3: Will I work with my mentor on a scientific project?

Answer: MINI is **not a scientific collaboration program**. Although collaborations may evolve from MINI-related activities, joint scientific projects are beyond the scope of MINI.

Question 4: Will I gain clinical experience from MINI?

Answer: MINI is not a clinical training program. However, if you are hoping to learn more about career options in clinical settings, we will do our best to match you with a mentor who has experience in these settings.

Question 4: Can I apply to be a mentee even if I am not an early stage scientist?

Answer: Yes, scientists beyond the early stage can apply to be paired with more senior mentors. Please note, however, that priority will be given to students, trainees and early stage investigators.

Question 5: What are the qualifications for applying to be a MINI mentor?

Answer: Anyone holding a postgraduate degree in and pursuing or engaged in a career related to radiation epidemiology, statistics or dosimetry is welcome to apply to be a mentor. In addition to mid- and senior-level scientists, we encourage applications from early-career scientists (e.g., postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty) who are willing to share their experiences and provide valuable mentorship to graduate students.

Question 6: Can I apply to be a mentor and a mentee?

Answer: Yes! We recognize the value of mentorship at all career stages. As noted above, priority for mentee slots will be given to students, trainees and early stage investigators.

Question 7: What is the process for applying to be a MINI mentee?

Answer: The application process for mentees:

1. Prepare a short personal statement (limit 500 words) describing your training background, current work/training, career goals, and what you are seeking from the mentorship program.

2. Submit your personal statement and responses to a brief questionnaire [here](#).

Question 8: What is the process for applying to be a MINI mentor?

Answer: To apply to be a mentor, please submit a short biosketch and complete a brief questionnaire [here](#).

Question 9: What is the process for matching mentors and mentees?

Answer: Matching will be performed by the ISoRED MINI Organizing Committee with additional input from the Early Career Investigators Working Group.

Question 10: How will I be notified of my match?

Answer: When a match has been made, the mentor and mentee will be notified by ISoRED. The mentee will be responsible for initiating contact with the mentor.

Question 11: When will I be notified of my match?

Answer: Mentees will be notified by early 2025.

Question 12: What happens if I am not matched to a mentor?

Answer: We will make every effort to match every mentee applicant with a mentor. If for some reason we are unable to match you, we encourage you to apply next year and to participate in other ISoRED activities for early career investigators.

Question 13: What happens if I am not matched to a mentee?

Answer: Our matching algorithm will seek to match mentees with mentors who are well aligned with their career stage, desired discipline and career path. As such, matching will be heavily dependent on the pool of mentee applicants each year. If we are unable to match you to a mentee, we encourage you to apply next year and to participate in other ISoRED activities related to early career investigators.

Question 14: Who do I talk to if I have concerns about my mentor/mentee during the year?

Answer: We understand that challenges may arise during the year, despite our best efforts to match mentors and mentees. If this happens, please reach out to Yuehan Wang (yuehan.wang@nih.gov) or Cato Milder (cato.milder@hq.doe.gov) so that we can work together to identify a solution. Additionally, we will solicit feedback (positive and negative) about your experience with MINI at the end of the year.

*ISoRED is committed to the principles of diversity, integrity, civility,
and respect in all of our activities*