POLICIES

Effective Date: September 18, 2013

Retired: Revised:

Approved by: Maria F. Lima, Ph.D. Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research

Subject: External Review of Graduate Programs in Biomedical Sciences

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this policy is to:
- Promote excellence in graduate student training and graduate faculty teaching and mentoring at Meharry Medical College
- Ensure that graduate student training at Meharry Medical College is competitive at the national level
- Provide our faculty and students with an opportunity to engage external experts in graduate education

POLICY STATEMENT:
The School of Graduate Studies and Research strives to provide unique educational opportunities in basic biomedical research and clinical investigation training and public health service to promising African Americans and other under-represented ethnic minority students through outstanding basic, clinical and public health oriented research, with special emphasis on serving the underserved communities and in diseases and health conditions that disproportionately affect minority populations.

The Biomedical Sciences PhD program will engage in a periodic external review to assure its excellence and competitiveness at the national level.

DEFINITIONS:
1. Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. education at Meharry Medical College
   The School of Graduate Studies and Research offers a course of study leading to the doctoral degree in Biomedical Sciences.

2. Graduate Programs: There are five approved graduate programs leading to the Ph.D. degree in Biomedical Sciences: Biochemistry and Cancer Biology; Microbiology and Immunology; Neuroscience; Pharmacology; and Physiology.

3. External Review: Review of the graduate programs performed by nationally recognized experts in Biomedical Sciences in the areas of concentration of each program.

PROCEDURE:
1. Each graduate program will be reviewed by at least two external experts in
the area, who will evaluate program courses, student performance, and faculty research conducive to a viable graduate program.

2. The external review of each program will occur at least once every five years.