**Microbiology & Immunology Program**

**Proposed Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC)**

**Student’s Name:**

**Research Advisor:**

**Proposed Project Title:**

**Proposed Committee Members**

1. Chair:

 Rationale:

 Potential conflicts of interest:

2. Member:

 Rationale:

 Potential conflicts of interest:

3. Member:

 Rationale:

 Potential conflicts of interest:

4. Member:

 Rationale:

 Potential conflicts of interest:

5. External member 1:

 Rationale:

 Potential conflicts of interest:

6. External member 2 (optional):

 Rationale:

 Potential conflicts of interest:

**Attach your mentor-approved Title, Abstract and Specific Aims Page.**

Instructions for completing this form:

In addition to your advisor, a minimum of four committee members is required. At least one of these (but preferably not more than two) must be from outside of the M&I graduate program. PMI primary faculty who are not supervising M&I PhD students and are working in other areas (e.g. Pathology, Cancer Biology) can satisfy this requirement. Only in rare circumstances will the GEC consider appointing committee members from outside institutions, though such persons are welcome to serve in an advisory capacity.

The GEC will review your selections and possibly recommend substitutions. To increase the chances of approval, write a strong justification for your choice of each individual, including information such as their scientific expertise and acuity, record as a mentor of graduate students, availability for attending biannual committee meetings, and whether you have established a relationship with the person. The GEC will be evaluating your proposed committee for its ability to expect high performance from you. Also, bear in mind that it will be your responsibility to schedule dates and timesyou’re your biannual committee meetings, and this can become difficult when two or more members keep very tight schedules and/or travel frequently.

You must also disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest between your mentor and each individual you propose to serve on your committee. These can be active collaborations, supervisory relationships (e.g. your mentor is a Division Chief and the committee member is an untenured faculty member in that Division, or *vice versa*), or close personal relationships between two individuals. Potential COIs may be acceptable, provided they can be appropriately managed.

For the GEC to evaluate the proposed committee, please include a one-page document with the Title, Abstract, and list of Specific Aims for your proposed project. This document as well as your committee choices must be approved by your mentor. You are not locked into what you write in this document; rather, it will be used by the GEC for evaluating the suitability of your proposed committee members.

Submit the completed document via email to Lorie Franklin (lorie.franklin@Vanderbilt.Edu), and copy me (chris.aiken@vanderbilt.edu).