

## Role play scenarios

### Mentee made an experimental mistake

**Mentee:** You have just added twice the proper amount of an ingredient to an artificial caterpillar diet. The diet is now inconsistent with those of the other treatments. Diet is time consuming to make and you know you don't have time to make an extra batch today. You are not sure how this will affect the caterpillars on this diet. You are deciding if and how you should approach your mentor about the situation.

**Mentor:** You have entrusted your mentee with mixing up some experimental diets for a caterpillar feeding experiment. The diet is very time consuming to make and you only have enough time to mix the exact number of diets you need right now. You have not given the mentee this independence previously. You need all the diets to be very consistent besides toxin levels to ensure growth differences are due to toxin addition.

### Mentee is not fulfilling expectations

**Mentee:** You are working on a complex genotyping experiment. The sample preparation is very long and time consuming and some of the techniques are new to you. You are struggling to keep all of the steps straight and due to lack of practice/experience, it is taking you far longer than you expected to get all the samples done. Your mentor requested the samples to be finished by tomorrow but you are only half-way through. You expect it will take at least another week. What should you do?

**Mentor:** You have asked your mentee to prepare a set of samples and are expecting to start the next part of the process with these samples tomorrow. You noticed that the mentee appears to have a lot of samples still to go and doesn't seem to have gotten many done so far. You explained the procedure to the mentee and they seemed to understand what to do. You know it should have only taken a few days to get all the samples done but they have been at it for a week already. Could they have been lazy and not put enough time into it? What could be taking them so long and how will you be able to start the next process?

### Mentee issues with the mentor

**Mentee:** You and your mentor had established goals in an initial meeting. Your goals included learning about using chromatography for collecting experimental data. This is a major component of several projects your mentor is working on including the one you had agreed upon. So far, your only tasks have been counting and sorting samples for an unrelated project. In addition, your mentor has not been present during most of the times you are in the lab.

**Mentor:** You run into a snag getting the chromatography methods to work for the experiment you are planning to work with your mentee on. You have given them some samples to sort for a side project while you work on getting the chromatography methods solidified. You need the project to be done so its great that your mentee can help you collect that data. It's a pretty easy task so you decide to let them go about it at their own pace and you can worry about other things.