

FROM: Elizabeth Somsen
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 9:23 PM
To: BILL SCHUYLER [REDACTED]

See: STEM prepared me well.

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From: DAVID H OCONNOR
Sent: Monday, November 6, 7:14 PM
Subject: Re: Undergraduate research opportunities in the O'Connor Lab
To: ELIZABETH DIANNE SOMSEN, JULIE ANN KARL, KRISTI LYNN HALL, ROGER W WISEMAN

Hi Elizabeth,

I'm sure that I'm not the first person to make this observation, but your research experience is exceptional. I think you might be a very good fit for our lab, where we have high expectations, but also unusual opportunities (e.g., we have several peer-reviewed manuscripts where undergraduates are the first author), for undergraduates to develop as researchers. Kristi, can you please arrange a time for Elizabeth to visit the lab for an interview?

Best,

dave

On Mon, Nov 6, 2017 at 6:50 PM ELIZABETH DIANNE SOMSEN <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dr. O'Connor,

I've attached a resume that discusses my science experiences throughout high school, as well as my senior paper. Additionally, I've included a poster presentation that I prepared as a culminating project for a summer program I attended in 2016, which I neglected to mention in my first email. It's less lab research based, and would be better described as an analysis of scientific literature and federal agricultural policy. Please let me know if there's anything else, such as a transcript, that I can provide for you.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Somsen
[REDACTED]

From: DAVID H OCONNOR
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 3:11 PM
To: ELIZABETH DIANNE SOMSEN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Undergraduate research opportunities in the O'Connor Lab

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for writing. My lab is currently quite full with undergraduates, but you wrote an unusually good cover letter for a freshman -- and I really like having underclassmen in the lab. Would you mind sending along a resume and your senior research paper?

Thanks,

Dave

On Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 11:57 AM ELIZABETH DIANNE SOMSEN <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dr. O'Connor,

My name is Elizabeth Somsen and I am currently a freshman enrolled in Chem 109H with Professor Randall Goldsmith. I am searching for a meaningful research experience to pursue throughout my undergraduate career that will help prepare me for graduate studies in virology. I've read a few of your papers on HIV pathogenesis, and I think your study into the HIV genome and how variations between HIV strains can affect immune response, especially in light of your characterization of SIV-specific epitopes in your 2015 paper about SIV-naïve MCM, is interesting. However, I found your paper describing GBV-C coinfections particularly fascinating. This idea of beneficial coinfections has interested me since I first learned of the similar system involving sickle cell anemia and malaria, and I think that viewing viral infections through this lens opens up novel treatment possibilities.

All this being said, I believe that lab and research experience is an integral part of my scientific education, and I find that your lab is investigating topics that I find interesting, and that are pertinent to global health. This email is chiefly to inquire into whether there is currently an opening in your lab for a dedicated undergraduate, and whether you think I might be a good fit for that position. Please let me know if you're at all interested; if so, I would really enjoy meeting with you to discuss this opportunity or your research in general. If you'd like to know more information about my high school coursework and wet lab experience, I would be happy to provide you with a transcript and the abstract for my senior research paper.

Bucky,
Elizabeth Somsen
[REDACTED]