

UCSF Summer Research Training Program

The field of rigorous research demands that we leave no detail unattended. It is the same with an academic career. We must take every opportunity to pursue our goals and continue our efforts towards our educational dreams. The UCSF Summer Research Training Program (SRTP) is another important step on the long journey towards my goal of entering a graduate research program in neurology. The SRTP would give me the information I need concerning the possibilities, requirements, and presentation required of a successful graduate program.

Recently I have been a part of a research project on cAMP response element-binding (CREB) proteins and how they impact the DNA's transcription properties. This project was conducted through the Department of Biological Sciences as part of a mice spatial behavior and neurology project. The research investigated the important role that CRB plays in cell growth and division. It was found that the loss of a single copy of p300 could disrupt the normal fetal development process. This important research could lead to the discovery of the action of the p300 binding protein and its relationship to Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome (RTS). In addition, we demonstrated the involvement of the CREB protein (CBP) in the formation of long term memory. It is believed that CBP plays a critical role in behavioral learning through changes in synaptic strength.

I would like to expand on this research background and find applications in other areas. I am particularly interested in conducting research on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) and would prefer this research be human based clinical trials. I realize the science is evolving rapidly and would like to be a part of any

research program that is related to neurology. The SRTP would be a critical step on my academic pursuit of a PHD with the goal of becoming a researcher or professor.

As much as I plan to gain from the program, I also plan to give back. I would bring my Melanesian ethnicity to the program and would increase the awareness of the other members to the rich cultural traditions of the island of Fiji. My leadership roles in the Social Ecology Student Association, the Student Body Leadership program, and the Tau Sigma Fraternity will benefit all the participants that I interact with in the program. I consider myself to have an infectious dedication to research, as well as any task I undertake, which would have a positive influence on the body of student researchers.

I am confident that I can succeed in the UCSF Summer Research Training program. I have laid the foundation for my future by reaching for every opportunity. When I was confronted by a lack of facilities and resources at UC Riverside, I undertook the initiative to get involved with the Care Extender Program at the St. Joseph Research Hospital. My previous studies and research have given me a deep appreciation of the value of this opportunity. There is an old adage that says that the longest journey is taken one step at a time. Research would show that this requires us to continue stepping. The UCSF SRTP is an important step on my career path and one that I hope will continue to propel me on my journey towards academic excellence.