

23/05/16

Hello everyone,

Misa came to our lab after I gave a presentation to the first year bachelors, during which a student sheepishly asked, "What can I offer to the lab?" This refreshingly humble attitude is exemplified by Misa, a young student who is eager to learn and translate that knowledge into important scientific achievements. Even during her first year of school, when most students are busy adapting to life at a university and are still exploring what they are passionate about, she managed to make time to come into the lab to perform experiments. She has even sacrificed portions of her summer to make significant advances in her project, which are hopefully evident in her thesis. Unfortunately for Misa, she was given the yeast two-hybrid project, a technique that is new to our lab. So there have been some growing pains during the last few years, but Misa has managed to stay positive and optimize the screen to the point where we can now start to answer some very important biological questions about the architecture of the *T. brucei* ATPase, an enzymatic complex that we have demonstrated is a great candidate for structure-based drug design.

A successful scientist must possess many different skill sets and Misa has already demonstrated that she is independent, dependable, efficient with her time and an excellent contributor to the research team. Furthermore, she has already started to develop her presentation skills through lab meetings. Finally, her drafts of this thesis were well constructed and only needed minor revisions, which affirms the advanced level of her understanding of the English language. Like all budding scientists, she still needs to find the time to delve deeper into the literature surrounding her project, but I am confident she will have this opportunity during her MSc studies. Finally, I would appreciate if Misa could continue to grow as a scientist and become more confident in her capabilities and realize that she can manage many different tasks at once. When she finishes all of the BSc requirements in the next week, I think she will have reinforced our opinion of her, that she is a very capable scientist with a bright future.

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