

July 18, 2012
Paul and Alison Frase
Johua Frase Foundation

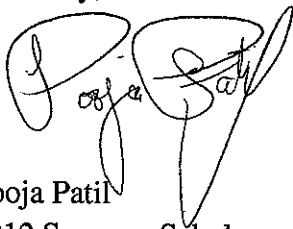
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Frase,

Being a research scholar this summer at Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine has truly been an amazing experience. I have been working under Dr. George Christ and his team on muscle regeneration. My project deals with the physiology of the neuromuscular junction and it looks into how to keep it active during an injury to the nerves.

My goal has always been to become a compassionate physician. I have shadowed many surgeons and specialized doctors, but I have also been immersed in biomedical research for the past 2 years. I applied to be a summer research scholar at Wake Forest because I realized that simply clinical work with the patients is not enough to satisfy my curiosity. Though a doctor can treat patients' maladies, it is the researcher that understands the mechanism through which a disease manifests. After this experience at Wake Forest, I have decided to apply to M.D./Ph.D programs so that I can get a dual degree and pursue both areas that interest me.

As a musician, I have always been told that every time I perform a piece of music, my interpretation will make the music novel. Similarly, research is designed for the curious and creative, those who are not afraid to form new hypothesis and continuously expound on them. Being a Frase scholar has helped me realize that I want to continue to do research and discover the science behind life. Thank you so much for presenting me with this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pooja Patil', written in a cursive style.

Pooja Patil
2012 Summer Scholar
Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine