

August 2nd, 2013

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Frase,

It has been an incredible privilege to have the opportunity to travel far distances and explore a new, exciting field of research. I have been touched and motivated by Joshua's story – a story that serves as a powerful reminder for students, much like myself, of the fundamental reasons and true motivations of pursuing a career in the medical sciences.

I am moved to hear of Joshua's accomplishments – to hear his dreams and aspirations of attending Wake Forest and achieving top grades – despite his condition. He has become a role model and is someone whose story I hold dearly as I hope to discover cures and treatments in the face of adversity and the inevitable hardships I am bound to encounter.

This summer, I was able to demonstrate a particular manner of culturing cells in a three-dimensional gravity-less environment that mimics the actual cell environment within the human body. This is an important finding because many experiments today involve culturing cells and tissues in flat, plastic plates that alter their true behavior and structure; this may explain the frequent obstacles that arise when researchers translate their promising technology from the bench and into a patient. The summer work I have accomplished opens new doors for designing experiments that really mimic physiological cell behavior and may give rise to more appropriate testing conditions that will enhance the efficacy of innovative medical advancements.

I have learned a great deal this summer: the challenges I faced throughout my research experience taught me the importance of integrating new information with current understandings, and of continually asking the right questions to probe the boundaries of the unknown. During the upcoming years, I seek to develop a strong scientific foundation to merge the fields of regenerative medicine, biology, and engineering. As an engineer, I dream of translating my lofty goals into reality and aim to advance humanity's body of knowledge. I am a young individual with many aspirations, but the unifying force that binds these seemingly random qualities together is an unrelenting drive to create and give something wonderful back to the world.

Joshua's story, inspiration, and resilience bring me one step closer to achieving these goals.

With gratitude, humility, and blessings,



Christopher Rodman