

17 April 2009

The Alumni Network Committee
Fundamentals of the Bioscience Industry Program
Center for Biotechnology
Stony Brook University, New York

Dear Members of the Alumni Network Committee,

I am a 4th year Ph.D. Candidate in Molecular and Cellular Biology, and I am writing to express my intent to be considered for the position of VP for Communications and Public Relations.

I applied to the Fundamentals of the Bioscience Industry Program to enrich myself and create a competitive edge that will let me effectively transition into the neuropharmaceutical research industry. When we received our Group Project assignments in class, I saw this as a good opportunity to get some ideas about career paths outside the R & D track that I already had my sights set on. Our group is made up of three Biomedical Engineering graduate students and me, and we were assigned to analyze a novel strategy for designing and producing biologics. Being the more molecular biology-inclined member, I offered to work on understanding the basic principles of this new technology. Since we also had to evaluate the patentability of this invention, I also volunteered to work on the intellectual property aspect of our assignment.

As we near the end of the term (and with deadlines fast approaching), I somehow cannot help but feel glad about how our group came through for this project. Being the self-confessed worrywart that I am, there were times when I felt overwhelmed by things that lay ahead. Working with the group kept me grounded and focused on what needed to be done next. Furthermore, analyzing intellectual property issues has also shown me an alternative career that I actually enjoy. Such realizations are the stuff that make even the most jaded graduate students feel excited about science again.

I realize now that I clearly came in with a tunnel-vision view of what I wanted out of the class. The Program has made me see how much I still limited myself to the traditional view that scientists should always be chained to their laboratory benches. I believe that if granted the chance to join the Committee as VP for Communications and Public Relations, I will be able to give back to the Program by reaching out to prospective students that are contemplating careers outside academia but are unsure about how to start exploring their options.

Sincerely,

JENNE RELUCIO
Ph.D. Candidate in Molecular and Cellular Biology
Stony Brook University