

Ready, Willing, and Able!

It is with genuine excitement, pleasure, and enthusiasm that I write to you today to apply for the ██████ Ellison Institute Junior Scholars Program. As a third year student in my high school's biomedical pathway, I have been exposed to a variety of my interests in the medical and research fields. When I originally joined the pathway I wished to learn how the human body works, and even more so, how to fix it. My experiences thus far have sparked new interests as I've learned that the biomedical field is not only made up of doctors, but also researchers, biological engineers, technicians, and numerous other specialists.

I hope to be a part of your fellowship program, take part in real research, gain lab experience, and learn more about cancer and oncology from leaders in the field. Cancer is one of the most complex yet common diseases and research surrounding cancer has yielded thrilling discoveries which are applicable to a plethora of other conditions. The expansiveness and necessity of cancer research makes it especially intriguing. There is also a great deal of innovation within oncology research making it quite unique. Additionally, I hope to learn more about the human side of cancer through your program. Cancer, while biologically fascinating and medically important, also has a very human side. This is evidenced in the way it not only affects the patient but also their friends and family. The story of Henrietta Lacks and HeLa cells demonstrate the human side of cancer and how cancer research leads to discoveries spanning the medical field. Her story and the story of the Lacks family shows how drastically lives can change due to cancer. Henrietta's cancerous cells contributed to almost every aspect of modern medicine as they lead to, most notably, cell culturing, the polio vaccine, and are used in almost every lab in the world.

As a participant in the Ellison Institute program, I will contribute character and experience. Through thoughtful participation and collaboration I will aid in the overall success and learning of the group. I will bring experience with lab procedures, protocols, and technology to the fellowship. I have previously worked with polymerase chain reaction, gel electrophoresis, centrifuges, micropipettes, and performed dissections of animal heart, eyes, and brains. Additionally I am well versed in sterile techniques and the use of personal protection equipment.

Besides my participation in the sciences through my school, I am a dancer and the President of my school's Model United Nations. As a dancer, primarily ballet, I perform in two productions a year, have attended ballet intensives, and competed at Youth America Grand Prix, and international ballet competition, and several others. Additionally I volunteer as a teacher assistant at my studio and as a performer with the nonprofit Ballet Pacifica which works to expose children to dance through education. Just this this year I also founded my school's Model United Nations. Although we have not had the opportunity to attend any conferences, this year has served as an excellent educational opportunity for the entire club, of about fifteen members, as we navigate the procedures and skills required for MUN.

My involvement in the ██████ Ellison Institute Junior Scholars Program will promote my future goals and aspirations within the biomedical field. As someone interested in both medicine and research this program will provide me the opportunity to experience a balance of the two, which would be invaluable as I'd like to participate in both in my career moving forward. I hope to eventually attend medical school with a focus on neurology so that I can remove various brain and spinal tumors. At the same time I would like to engage in research on inaccessible brain tumors. I am grateful for this opportunity and to gain experience. Thank you for your consideration of my application.