

Example of emails sent to a professor before applying:

Fwd: Prospective Graduate Student

Dr. Kornbluth,

I am a senior biology major at the University of Notre Dame. I am applying to the CMB program and am very interested in your work. After glancing at a few of your recent papers and your research summary I find your work with apoptosis very interesting. Will you be taking on new students next year? If I am invited to interview, is there any way you will be able to meet with me?

I have worked on several different research projects as an undergraduate in Dr. David R. Hyde's lab at the University of Notre Dame. The Hyde lab is interested in the signals that initiate Muller glia division post-light damage. My first research project was characterizing the role of leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) in the activation of cell proliferation in the undamaged zebrafish retina. I am also working on several experiments that are related to a genetic screen that the Hyde lab plans on performing to identify mutants in the regeneration pathway--I am developing a *neuroD4:EGFP* transgenic line for use in this screen and I am characterizing the extent of damage and regeneration in *sheer* zebrafish retinas. Finally, I am characterizing the *chx10:EGFP* transgenic line during retinal development and regeneration.

Please find my CV attached.

Thank you for your time,

--Lauren Lilley

Dr. Poss,

I am a senior biology major at the University of Notre Dame. I am applying to your graduate program and am very interested in your work. After glancing at a few of your recent papers and your research summary I find your research greatly coincides with my research experiences and interests. Will you be taking on new students next year?

I have worked on several different research projects as an undergraduate in Dr. David R. Hyde's lab at the University of Notre Dame. The Hyde lab is interested in the signals that initiate Muller glia division post-light damage. My first research project was characterizing the role of leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) in the activation of cell proliferation in the undamaged zebrafish retina. I am also working on several experiments that are related to a genetic screen that the Hyde lab plans on performing to identify mutants in the regeneration pathway--I am developing a *neuroD4:EGFP* transgenic line for use in this screen and I am characterizing the extent of damage and

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