

*February 20, 2015*

*4<sup>th</sup> WHBA Summer School Application*

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Dear Committee members,

I am excited to submit my application for the 4th WHBA Summer School in Medical & Biosciences Research and Management. I am confident that my qualifications merit your consideration.

As stated in my resume, I am a final year PhD candidate in Molecular Life Sciences at the University of Zurich, with a specialization in Neuroscience. While this training has provided me with a strong background in molecular biology and neuroscience, it has also given me the opportunity to demonstrate my abilities through practical experience. As a member of a highly diverse laboratory, that supports innovation and collaboration, I was encouraged to participate in international consortia and interdisciplinary projects. I have also been given the chance to teach and manage my own students, which was one of my most fulfilling experiences.

During my academic years, I have worked near some of the top experts in the field, in quite a few labs and campuses in three different countries (Greece, United Kingdom and Switzerland), who still serve as my mentors. Throughout my studies, I received scholarships (state and private), which motivated me to work even harder. I take pride in finishing top of the class during my bachelor and being accepted to the ICL MRes Neuroscience Program, which selects only three to four students per year.

Serving society is as much a life-fulfilling challenge for me, as serving science. This is the reason why I have volunteered in diverse projects, including pro bono management consulting in NGOs and writing a collaborative e-book on socio-ethical issues related to human enhancement, as member of the Neohumanitas think tank.

In a few months, I will obtain my Doctoral degree and I will have to take up a new challenge in my life. I strongly believe that this Summer School will help me interact with people who can give me valuable advice towards my next step. I am looking forward to meeting experts and fellow scientists from all over the world, engaging in conversations and expanding my network. What makes the Summer School even more appealing, is its location (Mani), which happens to be the place that holds my sweetest childhood memories.

I am eager to attend the Summer School and be part of this exciting community.

Yours sincerely,  
Goniotaki Despoina