

## **Personal Statement**

My interest in biology and especially molecular biology began at the age of 7 when my brother came to life with Down syndrome. I remember myself asking my parents if he will have superpowers. Later, in my life, I learned that one chromosome separates humans from chimpanzees, as well as, one gene, one base pair could separates us from death, so I valued highly the genetic code and decide to study biosciences.

At 2011, I graduated from the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics of Democritus University of Thrace and at the time being I am postgraduate student in the Department of Biology of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in the field of Applied Genetics and Biotechnology. Since I was fascinated by pharmaceutical chemistry, I have chosen to study it. In my undergraduate research, we have synthesized four new chalcone compounds that have lipoxygenase-5 inhibition activity. In further evaluation of this find, I was led to cardiovascular science and immunology, at the same time. The theme of my thesis, as part of my Master, concerns lipoxygenase-5 inhibitors in cardiomyocytes. It is in progress and will be submitted this May. I hope, May 2016 finds me continuing my studies accordance to Molecular Biology in a doctoral level.

I know that the summer school will be extremely useful for me as a new scientist, since I can appreciate all the knowledge that I can get especially when it comes from experts. I am very committed to this field because it makes me feel that anything is possible and I want to stay updated and effective. I strongly believe that feedback in biosciences is the trigger for new research ideas and improvement for the existing ones.

Along with my studies, I work part-time as a Research Coordinator in an Allergy Institute. The fact that I will meet Greek colleagues from all over the world, exchange opinions for the future directions in biosciences and express interest for future collaborations are essential for my progress in this working position. Furthermore, I will enjoy meeting colleagues from different cultures.

Finally, it would be remiss not to mention that I am excited by the area that the summer school will take place.

I am looking forward participating in such an educational and pleasant opportunity.

Best regards,  
Afroditi Chioti