

To the World Hellenic Biomedical Association Committee,

Twelfth-century latin “*nanos gigantum humeris insidentes*,” was modernized by Newton’s famous “If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” This scientific concept demands two disciplines of the investigator that of “to understand” and “to see”. To understand, in modern biomedical research demands a broad understanding of scientific concepts both humanist and medicinal. While the humanist aspects are typically acquired through personal curiosities, it is through interactions such as Summer School in Biomedical Research & Managements that up-to-date ideas are transferred for a shared expansion of Newton’s “shoulders”. Through this expansion scientists become analogous to growing stars in which a certain mass is required for growth to take place, because both scientist and the star require fusion to become more luminous. A gathering such as this program provides the basis and paradigms on which to make an observation. This observation is then continued “to see” through the scientific method.

Throughout my academic career, I have focused on these principles of building basis, and then posing new questions on which to advance understanding. If chosen for the summer program, I am able to contribute a deep theoretical and practical understanding of the mitochondria as well as a naive and inquisitive mind to listen to others. Because aptitude is critical to scientific advancement, I would like to provide assurance as to my scholarly prowess by asserting that during both my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I was ranked first. This ranking was mostly due to an inward-competitiveness that is able to transition into helping those around me. This extension to those around me is where I learn the most and am best able to contribute. My publication record also reflects these motifs with a bountiful contribution of my microscopy expertise into multiple correlated disciplines.

The second part of this opportunity that excites me is the real world scenarios and case studies. While in literature, a novel has by definition more range than non-fiction, in the science and business crossroads, case studies are powerful tools that are the necessary training for future leadership. Similar to academia in which making those around you look good is best-practice, business based in science is about teamwork, broad-based knowledge, and listening. From my experiences as an entrepreneur, both successful and unsuccessful, I am willing to commit to the development of others around me and will be excited to contribute to the program.

Very Best,

Nicholas E. Hoffman, PhD