

Beginning Undergraduate Research

I can't tell you how excited I am that you are interested in working in the Diffuse Optical Spectroscopy and Imaging (DOSI) lab. Here are a few things you should know about the process.

Come meet with me

I first need to talk to you to see what kind of fit you will have in the lab. I will be asking you some questions about your background, personality, and your career plans. I'm not expecting that you have had much if any lab experience (O-Chem labs don't count!). My main task is to see if you will be a good fit for the DOSI lab and if the DOSI lab is a good fit for you. So don't get too worried.

Talk to other students

I encourage you to talk to other members of the lab, particularly other undergraduates. They can give you the best overview of the DOSI lab experience. Most students will be very happy to share their experiences with you. However, know that their experience is not a guarantee of the experience you will have (either good or bad).

Do some reading

I will then give you a research paper or 2 to read. I don't expect that you will understand all of it, but I want you to try as best you can. Take your time reading it (may take a few weeks), and feel free to look up things you don't understand. Definitely write down questions you have. After you are done, come see me again and we can go through the paper together.

Register at the BLI

If we are both convinced you are a good fit for the lab, welcome aboard! You will then need to see Junko Cora at the reception desk to "register" at BLI. This basically means you give them your name and address etc. Eventually you will get a photo-ID badge that you need to wear around the BLI. If you will be working in the Advanced Technology Suite, you will later need to get a UCIMC badge.

Take the safety classes

You will then need to register on TED, which is a database for safety classes. You will not be allowed into any labs for work until you have taken the required safety classes. To register, go to www.uci.edu and then type 'ted' in the search box. When you are there, enter Jeff Andrews as your supervisor (jandrews@uci.edu). Once you have completed this step, you can start!

Enroll in the course

For now you should sign up for the 199 course in bioscience, listed under the category "Surgery" with the instructor "Tromberg."

Team up with another student

Generally the best introduction is for you to work with another student or staff member first to get the flavor of the lab. The student/staff member will show you the ropes: how to take data, fit data, etc. I'll try to pair you up with a student/staff who is doing something similar to you if possible.

Starting project

Likely in the start of your research, you will receive a simple project to develop your skills. It may be to measure a phantom, or fit some data. Generally this project will take a few weeks to get you

DOSI Lab Standard Operating Procedures

going. Once completed, you should have the necessary knowledge and skills to begin your own project. The project to which you are assigned will be a function of the abilities of the student, the needs of the lab. How far you go with this project is up to you and how hard you are willing to work for it.