So, You Want To “Do Research?”

Preparation
Career Choices
Degree Requirements
How can I prepare now?

- Keen interest in science: biology, chemistry, math and physics
- Strive for 3.0 or better GPA
- Good academic references
- Critical thinking skills
- Commitment to read, study and take detailed notes
- Insatiable curiosity and a passion for DISCOVERY
- Prepare to Perform
What are my career choices?

- Principal Investigator (PI) – independent scientist supervisor
- Research Technician/Technologist – permanent employee, hired and supervised by PI
How do I get there?

- **Principal Investigator (MD or PhD or MD/PhD)**
  - 4 year Bachelor Degree in Science (BS)
  - Graduate Student (PhD)
  - Postdoctoral Fellow (PI Apprentice)

- **Research Technician/Technologist**
  - 2 year Technician Degree
  - 4 year Bachelor Degree in Science (BS)
  - Master’s Degree in Science (MS)
The Research Lab

Is the unique workplace and training facility for all levels of researchers

- PI
- Postdocs
- Grad. Students
- Technologists
- Summer Research Interns
Are You Ready For This?

- Do you have time to commit to a research position?
- Will your class schedule allow you to take on a research position at the Lerner Research Institute?
- Do you know why you want a research position?
  - More than “I want to go to Medical School”
- Have a clear understanding of your laboratory skills
  - Be honest about what you do and do not know
Finding a Lab Position

• Send clear and well written emails
  • No typos
  • Have a well written and clear CV prepared and ready to be sent out
  • Emails should be personalized
  • Have some sort of email signature with contact information

• Follow through is critical
  • You won’t get a response from every email you send, don’t get discouraged
  • Be prepared to follow up

• Know what you’re looking for
  • Paid position
  • Unpaid position
  • Hours per week
Finding a Lab Position (cont.)

- Start looking early
  - Summer positions will fill quickly so start looking for opportunities in early spring

- If you plan to apply for funding mention that!

- You are your own best advocate
  - Be prepared to interview and provide references
  - Do your homework and come into your interview prepared and knowledgeable about the research you could be doing in that lab
  - Know why you want this position and be able to explain
Thank you!

Please feel free to contact the Research Education Office at reo@ccf.org