

Mentorship Description:

Professor Peter H. Byers, Pathology and Medicine
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I met with Professor Byers about every three days in his lab at the University of Washington to discuss the progress of my research and genetics. He gave me suggestions when I was stumped at bioinformatics analysis. A few textbooks that he lent me were very useful, including “Bioinformatics: Sequence and Genome Analysis”, which helped me greatly with my bioinformatics work.

The main person who helped me in my lab work was Dr. James Pace, whom I met with almost every day, usually from about 10 am – 3 pm. With Dr. Pace, I either ordered primers, performed PCR, or did gel electrophoresis. He helped me sequence my DNA and directed me to information about laboratory techniques and protocol. My mentors were extremely helpful to me.

They made sure I did not do any unsafe actions and they gave me pointers and tips for my work. For example, when I soaked my electrophoresis gels in ethidium bromide to make the DNA fluoresce and viewed the electrophoresis gels under ultraviolet light, they made sure that I wore a lab coat and goggles, and gloves. Without their assistance, I could not have finished the project. I am also extremely grateful to them for giving me the use of their laboratory facilities. The mentorship experience was fascinating, and it was greatly educational and fun for me, as I gained experience in labwork and learned a myriad of new things.