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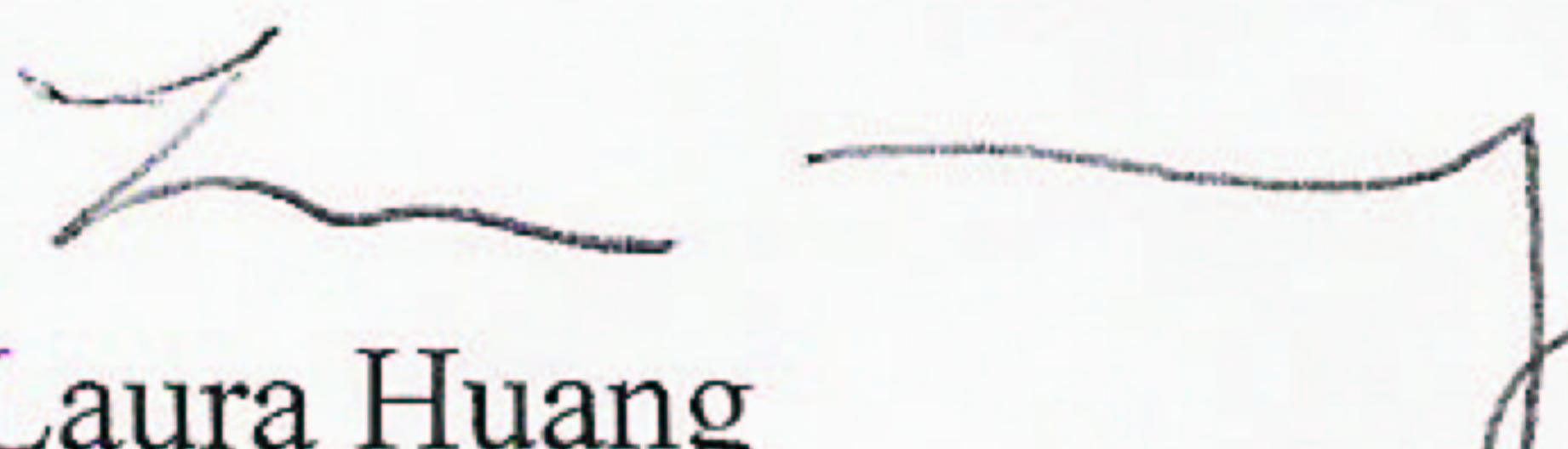
To whom it may concern:

My summer at the Center for Reproductive Medicine was a memorable and informative experience. Before entering the internship, my background consisted of no research experience and only the basic pre-med class requirements. I was nervous that I would always be lagging a step behind the other interns. However, Dr. Agarwal assured me that as long as I worked hard and learned attentively, I could complete the internship just as successfully as my peers.

Indeed, he and the other mentors fostered a work and learning environment that was rich and challenging, yet accessible. Every day was filled with lectures by accomplished experts in various fields. The regular exposure to clinical terminology, medical culture and current research initiatives provided a sturdy foundation for understanding the field of medical research and practice; I am certain that this knowledge will serve me well in medical school and in my career.

Furthermore, the internship at CRM was unique for its writing projects. Over the course of the summer, I worked on two review articles, "**Environmental Toxicants and Testicular Apoptosis**" and "**PCOS: The Role of Antioxidants and OS.**" I reviewed current biomedical literature pertaining to these respective topics, and integrated the relevant information from the daily lectures and my literature review. As the lead intern for "**Environmental Toxicants and Testicular Apoptosis,**" I coordinated the writing efforts of me and my support intern, and communicated regularly with my research mentor. Spearheading a writing project was immensely challenging, but we successfully produced a manuscript that has since been submitted to toxicology journals for publication, and I learned first-hand about the medical writing and publishing process.

Perhaps the CRM internship's most rewarding element for me was the bench project. I worked on "**Analyses of Catalase (CAT) Gene Polymorphisms/Mutations in Male Infertility**" with three other interns, which involved isolating and purifying seminal DNA, running RT-PCR amplification and gel electrophoresis, and sequencing the DNA. I was excited to learn how to conduct these procedures because they are commonly vital components of basic research. I came in with no lab research experience, but after the internship I could say with confidence that I had a portfolio of lab skills. Working on the bench project also showed me the day-to-day work environment of lab research, which was eye-opening and informative. Even though I have decided that I ultimately do not want to pursue basic research as a career, I consider this past summer's research experience to be valuable and educational in helping me shape my interests and ambitions within the medical field.



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