



Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Rotation update

15 messages

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: "Lee, Jenny [BRI]" <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
Cc: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 8:42 PM

Hi Felix and Jenny,

Two updates:

1. I am meeting with Dr. Coley next Friday, after he returns from Japan, to discuss a potential rotation opportunity this Fall. He has shared some concern about the timing,

"In full disclosure, I plan on taking rotation students in the winter/spring time. Mainly because I'm still ordering equipment and getting the lab set up. So, It would be best for you to do the rotation when there are animals to work with."

However, I believe a delayed start and/or extended rotation could address this. It would be helpful to discuss these and other potential solutions with you on Monday, Jenny.

2. After speaking with an upper-division NSIDP coworker at the GWC, Karina, who recently received an NSF GRFP, and conversations with cohort mates, I am strongly considering applying this year, deadline and requirements permitting. I will continue searching and applying for additional suitable fellowships as well. I am confident that securing independent sources of funding will expand both my flexibility and potential opportunities moving forward.

[Quoted text hidden]

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 9:51 AM

Yes, NEURO 596 will be set-up once a rotation mentor is identified and count towards the 12 unit enrollment requirement for student status.

9/23 at 11am, works for me. I'll send you a calendar invite/zoom link.

[Quoted text hidden]

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: "Lee, Jenny [BRI]" <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
Cc: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 8:45 AM

Thanks, Jenny!

To confirm, would the 5th rotation count towards these 12 units as the prior rotations did?

Can we meet 9/23 11am?

[Quoted text hidden]

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>, Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 8:38 AM

Hello Cooper,

An update regarding your financial support. GPB will not retract the October stipend and the Fall Tuition & Fee Award. Both awards credited your BruinBill last night and the stipend will disburse in the next day or so. You will need to be registered in 12 units for the Fall quarter to remain eligible for the October stipend and tuition award.

In the event that you secure on-campus employment that offers tuition & fee benefits, this will cancel the tuition & fee award.

I'm available on Monday 9/23, via zoom any time between 9am – 2pm. Before then, I will continue to correspond via e-mail to answer any questions, when I am able to.

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Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
Cc: "Lee, Jenny [BRI]" <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 6:07 PM

Thank you both for the updates.

Unfortunately, I also received **confirmation from Leanna today, "I wanted to follow up and confirm that joining the lab would not be a good fit."** I have been reflecting deeply with friends and family about where I fell short during the previous rotations, and how and where I must *significantly* improve during my fifth and final rotation. I am carefully considering candidate faculty for my fifth rotation, and will schedule meetings as soon as possible. I will keep you updated. **When each of you have availability, ideally before 9/24, can we schedule an appointment to discuss further?** I sincerely appreciate your support during this challenging time.

[Quoted text hidden]

Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
To: "Lee, Jenny [BRI]" <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>, Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 12:20 PM

Dear Cooper,

I have been in contact with Wells and Ophoff. Unfortunately, neither is willing to take you on as a graduate student at this point. From my discussion with them, there is no additional information on the 'why' that I can share with you, we had hit all the themes in our meeting.

Jenny is trying to locate funding, at least for tuition and fees for you. An alternative would be to find a suitable TA position which covers tuition/fees and stipend, but also 'costs' 50% of your time, which in case you find a rotation might not be ideal.

My fingers are crossed that things with Leanne will work out, either for a 5th rotation or even better for a commitment to take you on.

I am a bit under time pressure this week but always ready to meet for a bit if that might be useful.



Felix

[Quoted text hidden]

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>, Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 8:22 AM

Hello Cooper,

Thank you for keeping me in the loop.

Fall Quarter begins on September 26. You should aim to have some sort of Faculty mentorship confirmed by then.

On my side, I have asked GPB what financial support options are available for the Fall Quarter. I will provide an update when one is available.

Take care,

Jenny

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Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
Cc: "Lee, Jenny" <jenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>

Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 6:13 PM

Hi Felix and Jenny.

Following up on our meeting, **are there any updates you can share regarding your communication with Drs. Wells and Ophoff, Felix?** If you have not contacted Dr. Wells yet, I realized it may be impactful to emphasize the demonstrated computational proficiency I have developed through my third and fourth rotations, as well as my strengths in academic writing. I believe he would view both as significant assets when reconsidering my GSR appointment or his involvement in my advisory, as there was a significant demand for additional support in these areas during my rotation.

Also, I know this time of year is very busy, but **when you have time Jenny**, I would **appreciate any information** you can provide regarding an **approximate deadline** by which I should **confirm a prior PI reconsidering**, and if unavailable, to **identify a compatible fifth rotation PI** (e.g. Drs. **Coley, Pimentel, Olde Loohuis**, Balliu, or Uddin).

Since our meeting, Felix, I also **discussed the situation with Dr. Hernandez**.

I shared updates regarding my experience and the outcome of my rotation with Dr. Ophoff, and my plans in response to the news. We also spoke about the possibility of her reconsidering my GSR appointment and her reassessment of our compatibility following my rotation. She expanded on her initial concerns, emphasizing her communication expectations and her initial uncertainty regarding my commitment.

Since rotating, I feel our shared communication concerns can be addressed, as we identified and clarified their source. My commitment, potential, and maturity with respect to her lab's research has also been established further, as I continued working on and completed our project beyond the end of my rotation. That said, given Dr. Hernandez's current pursuit to hire a suitable postdoc, **new financial concerns have potentially emerged**, which we also addressed. Given this development, **I feel additional input would likely be required from either of you to address any remaining concerns Dr. Hernandez may have**, financial or otherwise. We concluded with **my commitment to share any updates regarding Felix's efforts to identify avenues for a GSR position with Drs. Wells and Ophoff**. If both are still unable to host, it was my understanding, taking the above into consideration, that **Dr. Hernandez may reconsider serving as my**

primary mentor.

Thank you both.

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Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
Cc: "Lee, Jenny" <jenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 7:29 PM

Thank you, Felix!

Feeling significantly better after our conversation.

To keep Jenny in the loop, these are the action items we discussed:

1. I'm going to confirm a meeting with Leanna for next week to discuss the possibility of negotiation/reconsideration given anything that has improved since my rotation.
2. Felix is going to contact Drs. Wells and Ophoff to discuss any possible solutions or opportunities for compromise.
3. If 1. and 2. are unsuccessful, I will contact Dr. Austin Coley and potentially other faculty members to coordinate a 5th rotation, which the department will hopefully be able to finance.
4. I'm going to prioritize preparing for the last written qualifying exam.

Hopefully, a 5th rotation can be avoided. Personally, I know that when prior mentors have invested in my potential, I was significantly more motivated, productive and capable of meeting or surpassing their expectations. From my perspective, it feels as though this element has been undervalued during the rotation process so far. I completely understand advisor's desire for immediate assurance in a mentees potential and abilities over the course of a rotation, but I feel that placing trust and belief in someone's potential can be more mutually beneficial than often recognized. Just my current opinion and feelings. I could be completely off base, and by no means is this directed at the department or any of the faculty I am grateful to have rotated with so far.

Thank you both for your time and support.

On Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 11:25 PM Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: FELIX SCHWEIZER <felixs@ucla.edu>

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Yes. Sounds good.

[Quoted text hidden]

FELIX SCHWEIZER <felixs@ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 12:51 PM

Can we do 5:30 pm in my office?

[Quoted text hidden]

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 8:30 AM

Also, this is my rotation project to provide context:

[Accelerated Biological Aging in Bipolar Disorder Presentation](#)

[BP-DNAm GitHub Repository](#)

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Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 11:25 PM

To: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
Cc: "Lee, Jenny" <jenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>

Thank you, Felix.

I had no indication this would be the outcome until today. I thought we were at a different point too.

Friday after 5pm works for me. I am flexible to meet virtually, but prefer in-person. I will contact Dr. Hernandez when I have time between qualifying exams.

Honestly, I am still feeling shocked and disheartened by the news. My experience was entirely positive throughout the rotation, and supported Dr. Ophoff's strong mentorship potential to encourage my continued academic and professional development. Although accelerated, I executed a rigorous rotation project, which accomplished each goal and expectation outlined by Dr. Ophoff at the outset. I successfully presented my findings last week and I facilitated a highly interactive group discussion. In my opinion, this project and its dataset would serve as strong catalysts for continued investigation and the hiring of a GSR to pursue as the subject of their dissertation project. As Dr. Ophoff was one of my admissions interviewers, his recommendation for admission then, and continued interest in my rotation throughout Year 1, both validate his confidence in my baseline academic maturity and potential for continued development over the course of my training. I remain confident Dr. Ophoff would be a mutually well-aligned mentor.

At our meeting, I would like to discuss **any insight you can share from Dr. Ophoff's feedback during your conversation**, and any **opportunities for mediation**. Based on the tone of our conversation, **I feel your advocacy would go a long way**. I am **not confident that a 5th rotation would yield different results without your intervention**. If Dr. Ophoff's decision was financially driven in any way, perhaps there could be room for departmental co-pay during an additional probationary period or a temporary TA commitment to supplement my stipend through year 2, enough time to secure additional funding from a training grant or fellowship.

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Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: "Lee, Jenny" <jenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Dear Cooper,

I am very sorry to hear about this development. That must have been one of the harder conversations you had, especially since it came very unexpected. Unfortunately, I have an important meeting for the rest of the day (sometimes these go until 8-9pm!) and Friday is really full 9am-5pm, but I could meet after 5pm.

I would definitely reach out to Dr. Hernandez and see whether her situation has changed. I wished we were at a different point!

Felix

[Quoted text hidden]

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 4:51 PM

Hi Felix,

Are you available to meet today or Friday?

I finally **met with Roel about joining and unfortunately, he said he's not ready to mentor me** or take a chance regarding some of the areas he feels I will need to mature in as a graduate student over the coming years. He said he spoke with you recently about his concerns and wanted to share this news in person last week, but was unable to while he recovered from covid. I was not expecting this decision at all given my completion of the rotation project within the abbreviated rotation timeframe, my independent troubleshooting throughout, our positive conversations so far, and my feeling that Roel's mentorship style and the emphases of his lab are both excellently aligned with my goals as a graduate student.

I'm now **struggling to pinpoint the areas he feels I need to mature in, as he did not clarify beyond a perceived uncertainty, insecurity, or lack of commitment he sensed**. I'm considering asking Dr. Hernandez if she may be open to reconsidering, assuming her initial concerns could be addressed. I've improved my computational skills significantly

since rotating with her, and am entirely comfortable pursuing exclusively computational research moving forward. As these were the two areas she shared her decision was based on, and she has no GSRs or rotation students at the moment, I feel there could still be a possibility for reconsideration. I also met with her last week about concluding the rotation project I worked on in her lab. I had continued working on it intermittently when I had availability following the rotation, and the final stage can be completed quickly by implementing a solution we discussed. Aside from Dr. Hernandez, or a negotiation with Roel, other possibilities could include Dr. Olde Loohuis, or another lab with availability from my list. Regardless, **I need your guidance and wisdom to proceed most effectively.**

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cooper Beaman** <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Date: Fri, Aug 30, 2024 at 2:34 PM

Subject: Summer Rotation Update

To: Jenny <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>, Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>

Hello, Jenny and Felix.

As promised, I have an update to share regarding my Summer rotation with the Ophoff lab. I completed my rotation project and presented the findings to our lab this Tuesday, August 27th. I'm proud of what I accomplished during the abbreviated rotation timeframe, and I believe Dr. Ophoff was pleased with the results. We also met the prior week to discuss the project, and during this meeting, I asked if he could share any updates regarding his decision to serve as my primary advisor. He said he had not been able to sufficiently consider his decision yet, and that he plans to contact you, Felix, I assume, to discuss NSIDP's current guidance regarding student onboarding and faculty expectations. I'm unsure, but he may also ask if you could share any opinions/recommendations about me. This could serve to compliment his conversations with my previous rotation PIs.

Since then, Roel has unfortunately been recovering from COVID; but today, he replied (below) to a message I sent following my presentation. In my message, **I affirmed my strong desire to pursue a GSR position with his lab, and asked if he could share any updates.** Roel is aware that I will be primarily focused on the written qualifying exams until the Sep 11th, but given the urgency of this decision, **we scheduled an in-person meeting to discuss further, early next week.** Based on Roel and I's limited conversations, I am confident I will only have positive updates to share following this meeting, and **will reach out as soon as I receive additional information.** Please let me know if you have any questions or additional information.

Thank you both for your patience and support.

Roel's response to my message:

"Hi Cooper, I am still not feeling well but I hope to be back in lab on Tuesday. You will have your first qualifying exam that day, isn't? Shall we aim to meet in person some time in the afternoon? Thanks in advance.R"

Best,

Cooper