I am from Columbus, Ohio. I have a BS in biology and undergraduate research experience in microbiology, biochemistry, and organic chemistry. I moved to Lincoln, NE to pursue a PhD in virology. With Dr. Charles Wood as my mentor, I will be working on the NeuroAIDS project to help characterize the neuropathogenesis of HIV-1 clade C. My research will focus on three specific aims:

\*To determine whether opportunistic infection plays a role in viral

infiltration of the brain.

\*To determine if the incidence of opportunistic infection in brain is

associated with HIV infiltration and disease progression.

\*To determine if there are relationships between neuroinflammatory

response, meningitis, opportunistic infection, and HIV-1 infection.

I will be looking at a wide range of opportunistic infections: DNA viruses, RNA viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. Techniques used will include nested PCR, qPCR, immunohistochemistry, *in situ* hybridization, various histological stains, direct sequencing, ultra-deep pyrosequencing, cryo-cracking, western/southern/northern blot, etc…