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December 12, 2019

Dr. Qinshu Lian
Clinical Biostatistician
Genentech, Inc
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Dear Dr. Qinshu,

I am a first-year PhD student in Statistics at Rice University. In the future, I want to work on computational and probabilistic methods with applications to genomics. I am particularly excited about how my knowledge can be transferred to tackle problems in cancer research. This was one of the reasons why I chose Rice to do my PhD – it is just next to the Texas Medical Center. Genentech is a leading company in biotechnology with more than 40 years of experience in this dynamic field. There are leading scientists across multiple disciplines, including oncology, immunology and neuroscience, who use their expertise in science to transform the world. There are a lot for me to learn at Genentech, and this is why I am so interested in your biostatistics summer internship.

I believe I possess the knowledge and technical skills that are relevant to your opportunity. On the statistical side, I am well familiar with machine learning and data mining. I have done several projects on this topic, one of which was in the final year of my undergraduate studies at Imperial College London and was awarded a prize for being the best project. Recently, I completed a group project on machine learning with applications to asteroid data at Rice University. I also have solid experience with time series analysis. Prior to starting my PhD, I had a journal paper on the prediction of stock prices in South East Asian countries. In the next semester, I will take PhD-level courses in biostatistics and statistical genetics. They will serve as a perfect opportunity for me to acquire the necessary background before the summer internship. On the computational side, I have 7 years of experience with R programming. I used Matlab for my publication and I am currently learning Python on Coursera.

I am aware that strong communication skill plays a central role in any working environment. I had 2 years of teaching and research experience at the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. Currently, I am serving as a teaching assistant for the course “Introduction to Statistical Machine Learning” at Rice, and I am responsible for weekly office hours and recitations. I have also learned how to effectively collaborate with other researchers through taking part in publications and projects.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need more information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Hoai Nam Nguyen