Dear Dr. Demming-Adams and Dr. Adams,

I am interested in building on my previous experience with photosynthetic organisms and their secondary metabolites and am excited to learn that your lab has an upcoming position as a research technician that aligns strongly with my future career aspirations in biofuel research.

~~After studying alga in my bacherlor and successfully taking part in the iGEM (international Genetically Engineered Machine) competition, I worked with cyanobacteria in my masters degree.~~

After a B.Sc. in Biology and participation in the iGEM (international Genetically Engineered Machine) competition, I received a M.Sc. in Biology before continuing on to work with Europe’s flagship microbiology lab, EMBL, in Rome. During both my B.Sc. and my M.Sc. I had an opportunity to work intimately with alga and cyanobacteria, gaining a strong foundation for the sustainable production of biofuels.

Furthermore, through my extensive experience in a variety of labs I have become ~~I am~~ skilled in working with RNA, genetic engineering, producing viral vector tools and proteins and can quickly adapt to new challenges.

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During my bachelor’s thesis I gained insight into the cultivation of *Nannochloropsis oceanica* and *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* in the lab of Dr. Uwe Maier at the University of Marburg, Germany. For my master thesis I successfully cultivated and processed Synechocystis sp. PCC 6803 in the lab of Dr. Wolfgang Hess at the University of Freiburg, Germany (Publication).

These experiences have left me well equipped to prepare and cultivate both algae and cyanobacteria.

The wide array of lectures and courses in plant sciences, translational biology and microbiology has left me with a solid foundation to learn and develop new procedures and protocols in the lab.

~~Within the first few months at EMBL my job description changed quite dramatically but I quickly adapted and implemented techniques that were new to both my supervisor and me.~~

More generally, I have a proven ability to quickly learn and develop new procedures and protocols as when, during a reorganization of the lab, I was tasked with implementing techniques that were new to both my supervisor and me.

During this time I also began working in a BSL2 environment and am aware of the importance of stringently following safety guidelines and maintaining a clean working environment.

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Taking part in iGEM gave me the chance to work both independently and within an interdisciplinary team of 20 students.

iGEM also gave me a chance to hone my skills in organization and the daily maintenance of running a lab.

My specific focus during iGEM was protein purification but I also taught myself adobe illustrator in order to generate higher quality designs for our website, and I became accustomed to using an internal wiki for accurate and reliable data storage.

~~Partaking in iGEM and working in a facility honed my skills in organization and daily maintenance of running a lab.~~

At my current position, I took the initiative to further develop and organize the facility’s database (FileMaker) – leaving me with excellent organizational skills I could invest to improve data recording and storage in your lab.

I have also attended a professional course on presenting with impact and project management for scientists and am able to apply these techniques to balance multiple projects at once while managing my time to keep ahead of deadlines.

Finally, through a wide range of volunteering activities I have honed my interpersonal, organizational and communication skills which will help in any situation whether in the lab or presenting at conferences.

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Given my skillset I believe I could make valuable contributions to the Demming-Adams and/or Adams lab and it would be an honor to contribute to your research. If you agree, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss a potential position and my skills in more detail. Thank you for your time and consideration, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rabea Jesser