



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Ms. Susan Engelhardt
Executive Director, CIVET
Center for Innovative Ventures of Merging Technologies
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
School of Engineering
599 Taylor Road
Suites 231 and 328
Piscataway, NJ 08854

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation and acknowledgement of the CIVET program in helping me develop the skills necessary to better facilitate the translation of my research in cancer biology from the “bench to the beside.”

I enrolled in medical school with a strong interest in clinical and translational research. With this passion for translating basic science discoveries into practical treatments for patients, I enrolled in UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School’s new combined degree program, MD/Masters of Science in Clinical and Translational Science. In my masters program, I took classes in a wide range of subjects from ethics in clinical trial design to molecular biology seminars. However, Ms. Engelhardt’s CIVET program filled in an important (albeit common) missing piece in a physician-scientist education—the *real world translation* of a novel idea from the bench, through clinical trial, and finally into the marketplace.

The CIVET program is unique because the training physician-scientists often receive is focused on helping us become outstanding scientists and clinicians without a focus on real world barriers to drug/device development. The CIVET program fills that gap by allowing us to work as multi-disciplinary venture teams, each student bringing a unique background, with a focus on the practical side of learning. There are a myriad of obstacles when transforming basic/clinical science into new treatment modalities for patients—patent complications, funding challenges, and competition within biotechnology. The CIVET program helped me understand and identify many of these hurdles. With the help of the CIVET program, I feel better prepared to navigate the obstacles of translating research ideas into clinical trial and making them available as new treatment options for patients.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the CIVET program. I look forward to a continued collaboration with the CIVET program and Ms. Engelhardt in the near future.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rosenberg, MSc
MD Candidate UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School '13