**Budget Service**

**Please scroll down to see samples of Standard Service and Premium Service.**

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**Statement of Purpose**

The young brain can regenerate: this is common knowledge. But what about the mature brain? For the elderly, for victims of neurological trauma, for addicts: for all of them, how to rewire the brain is an important issue. I want to study this issue in Stanford University’s Neurosciences PhD Program.

Currently I am finishing my Master’s thesis at the Graduate School of Medicine, Tokyo University. I am researching the plasticity of the nucleus accumbens and generalizability across drug compounds. Since I am interested in plasticity after concussions in particular, I have participated in as many research projects about concussions as possible to date. I’ve accumulated many cross-domain research experiences in medicine, cellular biology, public health, and cognitive psychology.

In 2004, when I was an undergraduate at Kyoto University, I found out that the plasticity of the brain is a fascinating issue, and worth investigating deeply. Therefore, I tried to do some pilot studies in mice, with the help of my advisor, Dr. Kanagawa. During my fresh start as a researcher, I learned how to design an experiment, and how to use recording techniques like patch clamp and electrophysiological recording and software such as MATLAB. Most importantly, I learned how to fix my experiments when data showed unexpected results. Finally, at the moment when I confirmed substance generalization in even adult mice, I found all the efforts were worth it: this stimulus is what encouraged me to move on in this research domain.

After graduating from school, I started working as a research assistant. Although I was not used to patient interactions, I had to learn a lot quickly! I conducted interviews and monitored cognitive functions by a series of neuropsychological assessments, as well as medication adherence behavior. For me, I am always glad to know what I have done is beneficial for real people, especially for those who have depression or life problems. However, one trend we observed concerned us greatly: comorbidity of concussions with drug abuse. This phenomenon made me question the importance of both chemistry and behavior in such individuals, and to look at brain damage through a wider lens of environment and trauma. In addition, I wondered: is brain damage reversible?

**Standard Service**

**Statement of Purpose**

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Currently I am finishing my Master’s thesis at the Graduate School of Medicine, Tokyo University. I am researching the plasticity of the nucleus accumbens and generalizability across drug compounds. Since I am interested in plasticity after concussions in particular, I have participated in as many research projects about concussions as possible to date. I’ve accumulated many cross-domain research experiences in medicine, cellular biology, public health, and cognitive psychology.

In 2004, when I was an undergraduate at Kyoto University, I found out that the plasticity of the brain is a fascinating issue, and worth investigating deeply. Therefore, I tried to do some pilot studies in mice, with the help of my advisor, Dr. Kanagawa. During my fresh start as a researcher, I learned how to design an experiment, and how to use recording techniques like patch clamp and electrophysiological recording and software such as MATLAB. Most importantly, I learned how to analyze unexpected results to see how experimental protocols may be responsible. Finally, at the moment when I confirmed substance generalization in even adult mice, I found all the efforts were worth it: this stimulus is what encouraged me to move on in the neuroscience domain.

After graduating from school, I started working as a research assistant. Although I was not used to patient interactions, I had to learn a lot quickly! I conducted interviews and monitored cognitive functions by a series of neuropsychological assessments, as well as medication adherence behavior. For me, I am always glad to know what I have done is beneficial for real people, especially for those who have depression or life problems. However, one trend we observed concerned us greatly: comorbidity of concussions with drug abuse. This phenomenon made me question the importance of not only chemistry but also behavior in such individuals, and to look at brain damage through a wider lens of environment and trauma. In addition, I started to wonder: is brain damage reversible?

**Premium Service**

**Statement of Purpose**

The young brain can regenerate: this is common knowledge among neuroscientists. But what about the mature brain? How to rewire the brain is an important issue with implications for treating the elderly, victims of neurological trauma, and sufferers of addiction. I want to study plasticity of the mature brain in Stanford University’s Neurosciences PhD Program to help answer this critical question. From studying drug-induced changes in mice brains, to helping patients recover from drug addiction, to uncovering the neurological nexus of motivation and behavior, my diverse research experiences have all guided me in this direction.

During my undergraduate years at Kyoto University, I was fascinated by the plasticity of the brain, and convinced the topic was worth investigating deeply. My first foray into the field was some pilot studies in mice, with the help of my advisor, Dr. Kanagawa. During my fresh start as a researcher, I learned how to design an experiment, and how to use recording techniques like patch clamp and electrophysiological recording and software such as MATLAB. Most importantly, I learned how to analyze unexpected results to see how experimental protocols may be responsible. When my efforts crystallized in the confirmation of generalization across nicotinic agonists in the hippocampus of even adult mice, the thrill acted as a stimulus to encourage me to move on in the neuroscience domain.

I started working as a research assistant at the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry in Tokyo soon thereafter. Although I was not used to patient interactions, I had to learn a lot quickly! I conducted interviews and monitored cognitive functions by a series of neuropsychological assessments, as well as medication adherence behavior. Personally, I am always glad to know when my efforts are beneficial for real people, especially those who endure depression or life problems. One patient—a war veteran with a history of concussions who was trying to overcome alcohol abuse after years of struggling—stood out as an individual, and because he was part of a trend we observed that concerned us greatly: comorbidity of concussions with drug abuse. This phenomenon made me question the importance of not only chemistry but also behavior in such individuals, and to look at brain damage through a wider lens of environment and trauma. In addition, I began to wonder: is brain damage reversible?