Co-op job summary
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Net ID= ghm7
Major= Biological Engineering
Employer= Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation
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At the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF) I worked in the Research and Development department. Within R+D I worked in the Product Development group under Marc Jacobs and Florrie Stoffel, my assigned mentor. I approached her first with major questions. I also went to other people in my department to answer questions. The technical function of this working group within MTF is to research and develop products that will contribute to the growth of the company. I worked on a variety of projects, but I cannot describe them in detail due to confidentiality restrictions. The major project I worked on involved process development to design a freeze-drying cycle for a human allograft tissue form. I delivered a final outcome report that established a basis of the freeze-drying cycle for validation. This would be considered a mix of process engineering and product development. Training was done by reading standard operating procedure documents as well as personal training with colleagues in the lab.

My work activity relates to my educational background and career interest because it involved laboratory techniques that are used in Biomedical Engineering such as mechanical testing of biological tissue. I learned that engineering involves a lot of critical thinking and working with other people in different disciplines by going to meetings to plan, implement, and complete a project. I was taught how to design an experiment and how to limit variables in the experiment. This position influenced my personal development by teaching me how to work in a team and how to think like and
function as an engineer focused on solving practical technical problems that impact commercialization of a medical product.

For future co-op students at MTF, I would recommend finding housing through Rutgers off-campus housing. At first my commute to work was about 80 miles each way because I was reluctant to sign a lease for an apartment. I was able to find housing with other Rutgers students on the Rutgers New Brunswick campus which was a 15 minute commute. In the future, I would be willing to recommend someone from Cornell to the person I rented from. As far as transportation goes, I would suggest driving into work even though the traffic is pretty bad around here. I tried taking the train into work for awhile, but MTF is too far from the train station in Edison or Metuchen. For activities outside of MTF, I got a Rutgers fitness pass and took a summer course at Rutgers. I played soccer every Thursday night with friends from MTF, which I enjoyed very much.

My mentor, Florrie Stoffel, was a great mentor. She organized challenging projects for me and kept me busy throughout the day. She was always available and willing to answer questions and offer guidance. She also directed me to others in order to further my knowledge on how different departments work at MTF.

There were many great features about this job. It has been the best overall job I have had yet. Two great things about MTF are that the pay is good and the hours are nice. Also MTF employees are treated very well within the company. They have company conferences periodically which are very nice. At these conferences, normally, someone speaks about how one of MTF’s products helped him or her live a better life due to the gift of donating. Most people at MTF are also very friendly and open to questions.