

Statement of Intent:

One of the issues we have addressed concerning Undergraduates is obtaining experience in the lab as an Undergraduate. Particularly during the school year, since there are many formidable REU programs. The method by which Undergraduates are told to find research is to click on the People page, and read through names and what they do and then get in contact with a professor whose work seems interesting.

This poses a few problems, firstly as a freshman or sophomore the idea of connecting with an unfamiliar face is very daunting. Secondly, freshman and sophomores typically have only taken the introductory sequence to physics. Your typical undergraduate has no idea if they want to go into condensed matter or high energy physics; they have yet to begin to understand the breadth and depth of the various fields in physics. Although Physics 110 is intriguing and helpful, there needs to be a better system in place for both Undergraduates seeking experience in the lab, as well as faculty who might actually want to have the extra set of hands.

I would like to suggest the idea of creating a database for Undergraduates to go to if they are interested in research. This database would include the names of professors who work with Undergraduates (even if they are not currently taking on any), as well as a brief description of their research that would be comprehensible even to a freshman or sophomore. This is not intended to be a job posting, but merely a friendly database of faculty who would be willing to assist and encourage undergraduates in their endeavors in any way possible.

With graduate school being as competitive as it is, having research experience is something so valuable and necessary in order to be a formidable candidate. I hope you will consider this suggestion. If you are so inclined, please reply to this message with any information you would like posted in a database for Undergraduate use.

Your support is much appreciated,

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Women in Physics
Co-Founder