For TMC faculty interested in mentoring or employing Rice undergraduate researchers:

The following letter and attached posting template provide information for those interested in recruiting undergraduate researchers or technicians.

Opportunities for undergraduates can be posted year round for various modes of compensation. If you are interested in recruiting Rice undergraduates, you can send us an ad containing your lab's focus, potential projects for students, number of openings, required experience (if any), compensation (pay, course credit*, or volunteer/research intern**) and contact information (see attached posting template). We can post your ad to our list and leave it up for a predetermined time or until you notify us that your positions are filled.

Note: *Students should seek out the instructors of the most relevant Rice research course to determine if their research in your lab is eligible for Rice University credit. **If you are seeking volunteers, please make sure that your institution will allow undergraduates to perform research without pay. Rice international students must consult with the Rice Office of International Students and Scholars prior to any off-campus research participation (paid or otherwise) to ensure compliance with their student visas.)

When determining the nature of your opportunity, bear in mind that project and mentoring expectations of students receiving course credit differ from those of students employed as paid technicians. We ask that our for-credit researchers be given somewhat independent projects, that they be able to meet their PIs at least once a week, and, perhaps most important, that they be assigned to an individual (usually an experienced graduate student or postdoc) who has an interest in training undergraduates and the time to mentor them on a daily basis throughout the semester. If the undergraduate student will be receiving pay he/she can be offered either an independent project or a technician-like position (e.g. washing glass-ware, database maintenance, etc.).

Students typically search for research-for-credit labs the semester prior to beginning their research (~April for fall, ~November for spring) but may continue their search up until a few weeks before the semester begins. Students search for summer opportunities throughout the spring semester. To view an example of the expectations for a research-for-credit course, you may peruse the BIOC 310 website (www.bioc.rice.edu/bioc310/). BIOC 310 is only one of many research-for-credit courses offered at Rice. Similar courses are offered through a number of departments and programs including, among others, Chemistry, Bioengineering, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Psychology.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like us to post an opening for an undergraduate researcher in your lab. You are welcome to pass this information on to any of your colleagues who you think may be interested in mentoring undergraduate researchers.

Research advisor/inter-institutional liaison contact information:

Dereth Phillips, Ph.D., derethp@rice.edu, 713-348-2343
Program in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Department of BioSciences, Rice University