Biology Open House: How to Find a Lab

21 October 2011
Why to find a lab

great learning experience: putting ideas into practice

great way to learn about career paths from people who are in them

fun and exciting
How not to find a lab

“Dear Prof. X, I want to work in your lab.”
How to find a lab

1) Figure out what interests you

- classes
- articles
- talking to people
2) Find labs at NYU or in NYC doing what interests you

**search departmental web sites**

*example:* [http://biology.as.nyu.edu/page/faculty](http://biology.as.nyu.edu/page/faculty)

**Google**

*example:* evolution systems biology new york


*example:* evolution systems biology “new york university” “department of biology”

*example:* DNA damage repair “new york university” “department of biology”

**talk to people**
How to find a lab

3) Be specific (but brief) when you write to professors

“I am a [year] at NYU, and I am interested in X. I have read your work on Y and am interested in volunteering in your lab.”

“I am able to devote Z hours per week to lab work.”

“My CV and transcript are attached.”
How to find a lab

4) Be persistent and don’t get discouraged

professors are very busy and might not respond right away (your chances are better if you are specific in your email)

there is not always room in a lab

NYU undergraduates are generally successful in finding a lab