TO: CPB and MCB Concentrators
CC: Board of Tutors in Biochemical Sciences
From: Tom Torello and Lisa Fountain

WELCOME BACK, CPB and MCB concentrators!
I hope you all had (or will have) a safe journey back to the Boston area. Lisa and I look forward to seeing you soon! I apologize for the long email, but please read it carefully as it contains lots of important information pertaining to:

- Email communications
- Online resources for students
- Advising appointments and emails
- Study Cards
- New MCB courses
- A few notes about recent curricular changes
- Laboratory research courses (including 91r/99 enrollment information)

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS:
We rely on email to convey important concentration-related information to you. It's your responsibility to make sure you check your official Harvard account (@fas and/or @college) regularly and to ensure that our emails are not getting filtered.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:
Life Sciences launched a new website over the summer. Concentration-related documents and forms for CPB are available here and MCB here. I think you'll find the list of courses that count for advanced credit particularly useful, but if you want to take a course that's not on one of those lists simply email me the syllabus and I'll see if we can count it. If you notice a link that doesn't work or you can't find something you need, simply email me. Thanks in advance for your patience as we work through the hiccups that are inevitable with the new site.

ADVISING APPOINTMENTS AND EMAILS:
I've set up a bunch of walk-in advising hours during the first week of classes. Anyone can drop in with questions during those times, and you'll get input from multiple sources (including other students, Lisa and me!) in one meeting. If you have a confidential matter to discuss, we can close my door during open hours for a private conversation.

Emails: During study card week, I will do my best to respond to emails, but it's an incredibly busy time so if it's a matter that can wait until after study cards are due, I'd appreciate it if you could hold off on emailing. *Lisa and I will be away from the office without email access for the Labor Day weekend.*

STUDY CARDS:
Study cards are due at your house office by 5 PM on Tuesday, September 9th. I encourage all students to contact their Tutor in Biochemical Sciences to set up a meeting to discuss their academic plans, including courses and research. Tutors are cc'd on this email, so they will expect to hear from you in the coming days.

If you've discussed your courses with your tutor or another advisor and just need to have your study card signed, you don't need to schedule an appointment with me - simply stop by my walk-in advising hours with your study card. I will most likely be able to sign it on the spot, but if I'm busy you can leave it with Lisa and pick it up later.

If you transferred to another concentration, a representative of your new concentration must sign your card. Please let Lisa or me know if you transferred to another concentration.

NEW COURSES:
I'd like to draw your attention to a new MCB course - MCB 101: Human Genetics, taught by Professor Craig Hunter. It looks like it will be a great course, check it out!

A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE RECENT CURRICULAR CHANGES:
As you know, several curricular changes were approved last year. One of the main motivations for those changes was to give students more flexibility in their course planning. As current concentrators, if you've completed MCB 52 and 54, you've already fulfilled the intermediate course requirement and are largely unaffected by the changes to the intermediate courses. **If you took MCB 54 but haven't taken MCB 52, you should enroll this semester, as it is the last time MCB 52 will be offered. If you have not taken either MCB 52 or MCB 54, you should plan to start with MCB 60 this fall.** For the remainder of the concentration requirements, you can choose to fulfill the requirements that were in place at the time you declared the concentration (i.e. you are "grandfathered" in to the requirements as they were at the time you declared the concentration), or you may elect to fulfill the revised requirements. A few notes:

- For MCB concentrators, only two advanced level half-courses will be required for the degree, as long as one is a MCB 100-level course (previously, three advanced level half-courses were required for students who choose not to write a thesis).
- MCB concentrators are eligible for honors and high honors consideration if they take one additional advanced level course (for a total of three). A thesis is required for highest honors consideration.
- MCB concentrators who do not plan on taking a research course (LS100r, 91r, or 99) and who participated in a summer research experience should review the MCB Research Experience Advising Notes.
- For CPB concentrators, the physics requirement has changed to include Physical Sciences 2 and 3. Please review the revised CPB physics requirements, copied below:
  Physics: One half-course in mechanics (chosen from Physics 16 or 15a, Physical Sciences 2 or 12a, or Applied Physics 50a), and one half-course in electricity and magnetism (chosen from Physics 15b, Physical Sciences 3 or 12b, or Applied Physics 50b). Students who do not take at least one course at the level of Physics 15 or 16 or Physical Science 12 must take a computational course as one of the upper level courses chosen from CS 50 or 109; Applied Math 111, 115 or 126; MCB 111, 131, or 199; or other computational class approved by the Head Tutor.

The updated concentration requirements for CPB and MCB are available in the Fields of Concentration section of the Student Handbook.

If you have any questions regarding requirements, please drop in during walk-in advising hours.

LABORATORY RESEARCH:
LS 100r: If you would like to become involved in research but have no previous research experience or do not yet have a faculty sponsor, consider shopping LS 100r, "Experimental Research in the Life Sciences". LS 100r has been specially planned to give exciting and up-to-date experimental views of life science research. It provides an excellent opportunity to introduce students to research techniques by investigating projects drawn from faculty members' laboratories. Many students who take LS100r then transition to a faculty lab and eventually do an honors thesis, although it is by no means required for students planning on writing a thesis. Click here to view the course website, which contains a list of research projects that will available in LS100r this semester.

If you'd like to become involved in research in a faculty lab but do not yet have a faculty sponsor, contact your Tutor in Biochemical Sciences, Margaret Lynch (the Life Sciences Undergraduate Research Advisor) or me to schedule a time to discuss your plans - we're all here to help. Understand, however, that getting involved in lab research takes time and effort and that the first few weeks of classes are very busy, so it might not be possible for you to get into a lab right at the beginning of the semester. That's OK; you have plenty of time to find a lab

that is a good match for you. Click here to view a great webpage full of information for students hoping to get involved in research, and click here for the student handbook on undergraduate research.

91r: CPB and MCB 91r ("Introduction to Research") enable students to receive concentration credit for research being carried out in a faculty member's lab. 91r is a one-semester course and can be repeated once (that is, students can enroll in 91r for a total of two semesters) and is excellent preparation for thesis research. Students ordinarily enroll in CPB/MCB 91r in their junior year, and continue with CPB/MCB 99 ("Laboratory Research for Honors Thesis") in their senior year. 91r may not be taken as a fifth course. **Enrolling in 91r is easy - click here to view information on 91r, instructions on how to enroll are at the bottom of the page.** You'll notice that we've moved to an electronic enrollment system so that you don't need to obtain signatures to enroll!

99 Enrollment: If you submitted a thesis proposal over the summer and intend to enroll in 99, just add CPB 99 or MCB 99 to your study card. Your Tutor in Biochemical Sciences or I can sign that slot on the study card. Do not have your lab sponsor sign your study card unless they are also your Tutor in Biochemical Sciences. 99 may not be taken as a fifth course. I'll send an email to all students enrolled in 99 with a timeline, due dates, and other important information during the second week of classes.

Best wishes for an exciting semester!
Tom.

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