

Kahlil Gibran  
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June 17, 2000

Mark Twain  
UCSF  
Department of Biochemistry  
513 Parnassus Street  
San Francisco, CA 94143

Dear Dr. Twain,

I recently graduated from the University of California San Francisco's Biomedical Science Ph.D. program, where I completed my thesis work in Tracy Chapman's laboratory. I am writing to inquire about the possibility of obtaining a postdoctoral position in your laboratory.

My thesis work focused on understanding the mechanisms of localization of  $\alpha$ -synuclein at the synapse.  $\alpha$ -Synuclein is a small, soluble protein of unknown function that has been implicated in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease. I was able to show using biochemical fractionation and quantitative confocal microscopy that  $\alpha$ -synuclein interacts with lipid rafts and that this association underlies its localization at the synapse. Upon disruption of lipid rafts in primary hippocampal neurons,  $\alpha$ -synuclein no longer specifically targets to the synapse, but rather appears to be evenly distributed through the axonal process. Likewise, a mutant of  $\alpha$ -synuclein (A30P) that does not interact with lipid rafts is not enriched at the synapse. Interestingly, this mutation has been linked to some rare cases of familial Parkinson's disease. This work is currently *in press* in the *Name of Journal Here*.

During the course of my graduate studies, I have become interested in using imaging techniques to understand neuronal signaling and function, in particular with respect to regulation of neurotransmitter release and synaptic activity. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to talk to you more about the possibility of a postdoctoral position in your lab. I have attached my resume to this email for your review, and will follow up by phone the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Kahlil Gibran

Note: It is also possible to approach a potential PI via email. In that case you would not include mail addresses.

# Kahlil Gibran

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14 Famous Writers Street. Auckland, New Zealand  
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## EDUCATION

### University of Auckland, NZ

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- Ph.D., Biomedical Science Graduate Program

### Université Cheikh Anta Diop - Dakar, Senegal

- M.Sc., Microbiology and Immunology
- B.Sc., Microbiology and Immunology with First Class Honours

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### University of Auckland, NZ, 0000

PhD Research

**Project:** Examining the mechanisms of localization of a-synuclein at the synapse.

- Results: Able to show using biochemical fractionation and quantitative confocal microscopy that a-synuclein interacts with lipid rafts and that this association underlies its localization at the synapse.
- Article has been accepted by *Name of Journal Here*.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Gibran, K.**, LastName, R., Last, J., Name, A., and NameLast, H. 0000. Name of Publication here. *Name of Journal Here*. *In press*.

NameLast, R., Last, N., **Gibran, K.**, and Name, K., 0000. Name of Publication here. *Name of Journal Here*. *In press*

NameLast., Name, P., **Gibran, K.**, and N, LastName S. 0000. Name of Publication here. *Name of Journal Here* **31**: 247-260.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Graduate Fellowship, Bloom Foundation for the Study of the Biology of Aging, University of Auckland, 0000-0000
- Chancellor's Award for the Advancement of Women, Student Recipient, university of Auckland, 0000-0000
- Regent Fellowship, University of Auckland, 0000-0000
- Fonds pour la Formation de Chercheurs et l'Aide a la Recherche (FCAR the Senegalese government) Doctoral Fellowship, *declined* 0000
- Fonds pour la Formation de Chercheurs et l'Aide a la Recherche (FCAR; Senegalese government) Masters Fellowship, 0000-0000
- Dean's Honour List, Université Cheikh Anta Diop - Dakar, Senegal, 0000-0000
- University of National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergraduate Summer Fellowship, 0000
- H. Finn Award, Université Cheikh Anta Diop - Dakar, Senegal, 0000-0000
- Senegal National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergraduate Summer Fellowship, 0000
- Dean's Honour List, Université Cheikh Anta Diop - Dakar, Senegal, 0000-0000

## References

### Tracy Chapman, M.D.

14 Saturn Street  
Auckland, New Zealand  
email  
phone

### Elvis Costello, M.D., Ph.D.

14 Neptune Street  
Auckland, New Zealand  
email  
phone

### Don Ho, D. Phil

14 Mercury Street  
Auckland, New Zealand  
email  
phone