Patent Attorney Traineeship Opportunity

Dear IP Professionals

I am searching for an exciting patent attorney traineeship position where I can use my scientific expertise in modern synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry as well as my communication and organisational skills to contribute to the successful commercialisation of beneficial products.

As a recent postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bern, I am passionate about innovative ideas and have a strong desire to see new technologies get translated into real world outcomes. I am also intrigued by the sheer challenge of legal aspects of IP rights and therefore consider a traineeship position as a unique platform to enhance your IP protection strategies while I learn the legal and practical skills of becoming a qualified patent attorney.

I bring to your firm a proven track record of broad pharmaceutical, biological, organic, mechanistic and medicinal chemistry research experience. Over the past 8 years, I have successfully undertaken high value research focusing on developing numerous methods, reagents and reactions for the concise preparation of molecules of biological and medicinal interests. My versatility enabled me to develop antioxidant drug candidates with excellent antitumor effects on lung cancer cells; new methods for converting biomass-derived cotton trash wastes to pharmaceutically relevant molecules; and prepared the first examples of chiral amino acid nitroxide spin labels as tools for studying protein structures.

My commitment to excellence earned me the prestigious Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Scholarship at the University of Bern in 2017, where I contributed to a body of scientific knowledge. I am motivated to solve outstanding scientific challenges independently as well as in a team dynamic. In this regard I have regularly undertaken effective literature/database searches to retrieve relevant scientific and technical information and conducted detailed conceptual and data analysis to adequately understand, articulate, adapt and incorporate novel and complex scientific concepts and ideas into solving existing and future research problems on time.

I am an adept communicator with excellent organisation skills and attention to details, and experienced in working with people from a wide socio-cultural background. I demonstrated this by providing constructive input into designing and propelling research projects, preparing and presenting my research updates at team meetings and scientific conferences, as well as establishing and maintaining multidisciplinary collaborations with bodies such as the Centre for Cancer Research at the NIH. I have prepared peer-review publications and supervised emerging chemists. I take the initiative and exercise high judgement to work effectively in any fast-paced multidisciplinary environment. In 2012 and 2013, I won the best presentation at two Australia national scientific conferences.

I have a strong personal commitment to delivering impact outside of my career goals. In this regard I contributed over 5 years as a leader and mentor to disadvantaged youth in my community. I am a highly motivated, hardworking, result-driven and team-oriented individual with excellent problem-solving abilities and a strong commitment to the team and organisation that I work for. I am confident in my ability and believe that I will be a strong addition to your firm. Attached below is my curriculum vitae for your consideration. I look forward to discussing my interest in detail.

Sincerely,

Komba Thomas, PhD.

Komba Thomas

• Australian • 17 Coromandel St, QLD4121 • +61403746788 • linkedin • komba09@gmail.com

Career Summary

Accomplished research professional adept at effective communication and rapport building. Experienced in leading, teaching and supporting junior chemistry researchers to achieve profitable outcomes. Over 8 years of broad chemistry, biology and medicinal research experience with expert capabilities within synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry backed by a reputation for delivering a positive workplace while seeking high-profile challenges. Innovator, creator of potent anticancer drug candidates; strong international research acumen in Switzerland with collaborative approach to science. Intrigued by IP rights with a drive to contribute to a leading IP team and deliver excellent protection strategies for innovative ideas and technologies.

Academic Record

2018 **Winner, Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Fellowship, Bern**
2016 **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Chemistry, QUT**
2014 **Youth Mentor, Brisbane**
2013 **Winner, Best Presentation, Nanotech and Molecular Science Symposium, Australia**
2012 **Winner, Best Presentation, RACI Symposium, Australia**
2010 **Winner, Blueprint Scholarship for student demonstrating high research potential, QUT**
2010 **Winner, Summer Vacation Scholarship, QUT**
2010 **Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours), Chemistry, QUT**

Research Skills and Experience

- Profound organic and medicinal chemistry experience
- New and efficient synthetic method development
- Excellent scientific information and data retrieval skills
- Effective communication and organisational skills
- Passionate about IP rights and willingness to learn
- Adept research, analytical and conceptual thinking
- Prepare reports, publications and presentations
- High professional and safety standards
- Good IT skills and attention to details
- Proven track record of scientific innovation
- Maintain accurate, up-to-date research records
- Effective multidisciplinary team-oriented individual
- Disciplined & motivated to carry out autonomous work
- Fluent English, intermediate French & basic German
- Ability to learn and incorporate new ideas
- International experience and good supervisory skills
- Sound technical knowledge and the ability to adapt
- Ability to understand and articulate complex ideas

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Chemistry (QUT), 2011 – 2016.
Thesis: *"Novel Dual-Acting Nitroxide-Based Hybrid Antioxidants".* I designed, synthesised and tested a series of new hybrid antioxidants as potential drug candidates for chronic inflammation and oxidative stress-related diseases.

Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours), Chemistry (QUT), 2007 – 2010.
Thesis: *"Synthesis of Water-Soluble Antioxidant Nitroxides"*. I carried out multi-step synthesis and characterisation of water soluble phenolic and carboxylic acid isoindoline-based antioxidant nitroxides.

Work History

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Bern, Switzerland | 2017 – 2018

Recipient of the *Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Scholarship for Foreign Scholars*. I developed new, efficient and practical synthetic methodologies for accessing azabicyclic rings and alkoxy radicals, and for making molecules of importance in nature, biology and material science.

- Conducted regular literature and database search to retrieve scientific and technical information relevant to understanding and solving research problems.
- Supervised and mentored postgraduate students and reviewed their reports and thesis.
- Prepared research reports and presentation at group meetings and scientific conferences.
- Acquired and carried out accurate research data analysis and interpretation.
- Assisted with writing research grant proposals.

Postdoctoral Research Associate | QUT, Brisbane | 2017

I conducted innovative, impactful research of strategic importance to QUT that led to the development of new methods for converting biomass-derived cotton wastes to relevant pharmaceutical compounds.

- Prepared and presented research reports to industry stakeholders and at internal symposia.
- Conducted laboratory health and safety inductions of new staff.
- Organised general activities such as lab clean-ups and chemical inventory updates.

Residential Youth Worker | ProCare Personnel, Brisbane | 2014 – 2017

I contributed to the implementation of ProCare strategic plan by providing care, education and social support services to young people facing welfare, behavioural, developmental, disabilities, domestic violence and protection issues within residential environments across Brisbane.

- Developed comprehensive education, social and recreational skills programs for young people.
- Facilitated referrals to access specialist services such as housing, legal and healthcare.
- Participated in, and contributed to team meetings/trainings and provided support to colleagues.
- Prepared and maintained daily progress and critical incident reports.

Research Assistant | QUT, Brisbane | 2010 – 2011

I carried out efficient and practical multi-step syntheses of high purity profluorescent nitroxide spin label probes to support medicinal chemistry programs.

- Conducted preliminary biological analysis of synthesised compounds.

Teacher Aide | Yeronga State High School, Brisbane | 2008 – 2009

I performed a variety of duties to support teaching and learning in years 8 to 12 classes.

- Assisted with planning, preparation and delivery of effective learning and teaching programs.
- Supported ESL learners to develop good English language skills as per school curriculum.
- Established and maintained interpersonal relationships with students, staff and parents.
- Supervised and provided excursion-based support outside school premises.

Publications

1. **Thomas, K**., Moody T.W., Jensen, R.T., Tong, J., Rayner, C.L., Barnett N.L., Ridnour LA., Wink D.A., Bottle S.E. (**2018**). Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Hybrid Nitroxide-Based Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs. *Eur J Med Chem*, (147), 34-47.
2. Hansen, K., Nerkar, J., **Thomas, K**., Bottle, S.E., O'Mullane, A.P., Talbot, P.C., Blinco, J.P. (**2018**). New Spin on Organic Radical Batteries–An Isoindoline Nitroxide-Based High-Voltage
4. Moody, T. W., **Thomas, K**., Fairfull-Smith, K. E., Bottle, S. E., Ridnour, L., & Wink, D. A. (**2015**). Nitroxide-aspirin conjugates: A new class of NSAIDs. *Cancer Research*, *75*(15 Supplement), 4539-4539.
5. Lederhose, P., Haworth, N. L., **Thomas, K**., Bottle, S. E., Coote, M. L., Barner-Kowollik, C., & Blinco, J. P. (**2015**). Design of redox/radical sensing molecules via Nitrile Imine-Mediated Tetrazole-ene Cycloaddition (NITEC). *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *80*(16), 8009-8017.

Cathode Material. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces; DOI: 10.1021/acsami.7b18252*.

3. **Thomas, K**., Blinco, J.P., O'Mullane, A.P., Bottle, S.E. (**2017**). Enhanced Reversible Oxidation/Reduction Behaviour for Electro-Active Materials. Provisional patent number **2017901676**. IP Australia Batch Reference SPBI-0001260583.
6. Blinco, J. P., Bottle, S. E., Fairfull-Smith, K. E., Simpson, E., & **Thomas, K** (**2015**). Synthesis of Nitroxides and Alkoxyamines. *Nitroxide Mediated Polymerization: From Fundamentals to Applications in Materials Science*, 114-152.
7. **Thomas, K**., Chalmers, B. A., Fairfull-Smith, K. E., & Bottle, S. E. (**2013**). Approaches to the Synthesis of a Water-Soluble Carboxy Nitroxide. *Eur J Org Chem*, 5, 853-857.

Oral Presentations

1. **Komba Thomas**. "Dual-Acting Nitroxide-Based Hybrid Antioxidants" University of Bern Symposium (**2017**).
2. **Komba Thomas**. "Schöllkopf's Asymmetric Synthesis of α-Amino Acid Nitroxide Site-Directed Spin Labels" RACI Symposium (**2016**).
3. **Komba Thomas**. "Dual-Action Pharmacophore Hybridisation: Combining Antioxidant Nitroxide with L-Dopa as Potential Parkinson's Disease Therapy" RACI Symposium (**2014**).
4. **Komba Thomas**. "Hybrid Dual-Action Nitroxide-Based Antioxidants" QUT Nanotechnology and Molecular Science HDR Symposium (**2013**).
5. **Komba Thomas**. "Hybrid Nitroxide-Aspirin-Based Dual Pharmacophores" ARC Centre of Excellence for Free Radical Chemistry and Biotechnology Spring Carnival (**2012**).
6. **Komba Thomas**. "Hybrid Nitroxide-NSAID Conjugates" RACI Symposium (BBOCS, **2012**).

Techniques & IT Abilities

Microsoft Office, MestReNova, Prism, ChemDraw, EndNote, Origin Lab, SciFinder, Reaxys, HPLC, CV, DSC, NMR, EPR, GCMS, HRMS, FTIR and UV-Vis spectroscopies.

Interests

Youth Leader and Mentor | **Voluntary Community Outreach (SLEDAQ), Brisbane** | **2009 – 2014**

Led, mentored, and supported SLEDAQ youth to facilitate personal, social and educational growth as well as encouraging greater social inclusion.

- Moral philosophy, mentoring young people, fitness and basketball.

References

Prof. Dr Philippe Renaud

Professor of Chemistry,
Universität Bern, Switzerland
+4131 631 43 59
philippe.renaud@dcb.unibe.ch

Prof. Steven E. Bottle

Professor of Chemistry,
Science and Engineering Faculty,
QUT. +61414611356
s.bottle@qut.edu.au

A/Prof. Kathryn Fairfull-Smith

A/Professor of Chemistry,
Science and Engineering Faculty,
QUT. +61431644356
k.fairfullsmith@qut.edu.au