

## GWIS Travel Award Follow-up Report

Attending the recent AcademyHealth Annual Research Conference in Orlando, FL was beneficial in a variety of ways. The poster I presented is based on work that I am currently finalizing a manuscript on (“Maternal Stress and Low Birth Weight”). The questions and suggestions I received will directly improve that manuscript and gave me some ideas on future directions. During two other poster sessions, I had interesting discussions with others presenting related work. One potentially important contact was another graduate student with a very different focus (sociology), but with significant overlaps in part of our work (the effect of neighborhoods on health). We plan to exchange manuscripts for proofreading and to gain a different perspective on our work.

I gave a talk on another project that is in an earlier stage of manuscript preparation (“Assessing the Quality of Online Health Information: A Case Study of Web Search for Use of Antibiotics for Ear Infections”). The comments and suggestions I received will be valuable as I continue that work. In addition, I was approached during a networking reception by one of the people in the audience, which led to a great discussion about the project, working in academia, and my current dissertation idea. This led to a possible connection to a source of data and perhaps even to an outside committee member.

The organizers of the meeting arranged for students to be matched with someone in their area of interest to discuss career planning. I was able to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with someone who is established in the field and discuss the pros and cons of post-docs, how to balance different priorities, and how to improve my cv. This gave me some new ideas on what I might do after completing graduate school and how to position myself when looking for jobs, in addition to creating a new contact.

While I was not discussing my own work, I was learning about other work in the field. There were many concurrent sessions, which often made it difficult to decide which to attend, but also meant that there were often topics closely aligned to my interests, such as “Disparities in Child Health.” The talks themselves were quite interesting, but the discussions that followed were even more valuable to allow me insight into how people are currently thinking about these issues.

I would like to thank GWIS once again for the funding that helped me attend this meeting.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Holland