

Taylor Uccello, PhD Student in Immunology in Dr. Scott Gerber's laboratory
University of Rochester Graduate Women in Science Supported Travel Award
American Association of Immunologists Advanced Course in Immunology
Boston Massachusetts, July 28th – August 2nd, 2019

I would like to thank the Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) for supporting my travel to the Advanced Course in Immunology held by the American Association of Immunologists (AAI). AAI was founded in 1913 and has been a leading organization for immunology research. This prestigious association is dedicated to advancing the field of immunology and fostering the development of scientists at all stages of their training. Each year they hold an advanced workshop that can be attended by advanced graduate students, post doctorates, principle investigators, and scientists working in industry.

The Advanced Course is taught by immunologists from across the country who are regarded as the top in their field. The week long intensive course covers many key components of the immune response in enormous detail. This years course included topics from innate immunity through vaccinations. I was thrilled to see that the course schedule would also include lectures on tumor immunology and neuro-immunology (a topic that is recently emerging and is the focus of my thesis project). My work in the Gerber lab focuses on how the immune and nervous systems interact to promote immunosuppression in the tumor microenvironment. These lectures were therefore incredibly useful in further developing ideas for my project.

Attendance at this workshop came at a pivotal period in my graduate studies. As I am beginning my third year of graduate school I will be taking my qualifying exam at the end of the summer. This workshop supplemented the classes taught at the U of R exceptionally well. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend this course and better prepare myself for the rest of my graduate career. I would again like to thank GWIS for their continual support and mentoring.

Sincerely,

Taylor Uccello