

Graduate Women in Science Spring 2015 Travel Report
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I would like to thank the University of Rochester Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) for the generous travel award that allowed me to attend the Annual meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) in Vienna, Austria from July 12th - 16th.

The meeting was primarily organized into sessions of 15-minute talks. However some presenters were selected as featured speakers and gave 30-minute talks. I was fortunate enough to be selected as a featured speaker, and I talked about my research on the evolution of recombination rates in *Drosophila*. This was a great opportunity, providing me with a forum to showcase my research accomplishments and interests as I begin to explore post-doctoral positions.

The conference focused on the intersection of evolutionary questions and molecular-biology techniques used to achieve their answer. Due to the conference's specificity, many prominent researches attended, many of whom I was able to meet with and discuss my work! Additionally, the SMBE organizers made a concerted effort to equalize the gender distribution of speakers. As a result, nearly 40% of speakers were female.

The SMBE meeting was a fantastic meeting, and I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to attend. It was a formative experience in my graduate career. Since the meeting was in Europe, travel costs were higher than if the meeting had been in the States, making financial support from GWIS a great help.