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University of Rochester Graduate Women in Science Supported Travel
37th Annual Asilomar Chromatin, Chromosomes and Epigenetics Conference in Pacific Grove, CA
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I recently attended the 37th Annual Asilomar Chromatin, Chromosomes and Epigenetics Conference (ACCEC) in Pacific Grove, CA, a meeting with deep-rooted history, particularly in engaging young scientists. I would like to thank Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) for providing travel funds to support my attending a meeting that was a valuable experience in my graduate studies. Also worth noting, I had the pleasure of speaking with Dr. Barbara Hamkalo, one of the original organizers of this meeting, who led an exciting and successful career as an academic scientist. As a Professor *Emerita,* she is currently pursuing passions such as working to engage girls in STEM paths through her involvement in several programs, and I found it suiting to discuss my participation in GWIS with her.

This conference has an engaging forum that provides an environment conducive to intellectual dialog and the sharing of ideas and research interests among established principal investigators, young principal investigators, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students. The oral communication platform that allowed me, as a graduate student, to present my research as a 15-minute talk at a national meeting was a fantastic experience. My work, to define interactions of linker histone H1 with the nucleosome was well-received by the audience, resulting in several discussions with many conference participants about more detailed aspects of the project. Discussions included results that I did not have time to present, and additional scientific questions that are potentially worth exploring. Besides engaging with senior investigators, I spoke with many students and postdocs, learning valuable technical information that I intend to apply to future work.

Prospective career development was further enhanced by the quality and diversity of the science presented by other invited speakers. Sessions included presentations in the areas including DNA repair, epigenome modulation, gene regulation, chromatin architecture, and chromatin evolution. Several leading labs in these respective areas were represented, and the conference structure provided an excellent opportunity to speak directly with principal investigators about their ongoing work, career advice, and career trajectories, including potential postdoctoral training opportunities.

Overall, my attendance at the 37th annual ACCEC meeting was a great opportunity and one that I value. I am grateful to GWIS for providing me with financial support, making it possible for me to present my work and become aware of projects in related fields.