

Jennifer Judge

Mentor: Dr. Patricia Sime

Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) Travel Report

Thank you to Graduate Women in Science for supporting my travel to the American Thoracic Society Meeting in San Francisco, CA. The meeting was held from May 15-20, 2016 and was attended by 17,000 people. This is the most widely attended international meeting for pulmonary research. While I have attended this meeting for the last three years, this year's meeting provided some unique opportunities for me as a trainee, and I am very grateful for GWIS's support to attend this meeting.

I presented two posters on my research at the meeting. One was featured in a traditional thematic session, while my second poster was featured in a poster discussion session. The poster discussion session was a unique format for this year's meeting. I prepared a poster along with one accompanying power point slide that summarized the poster. Presenters were given 90 seconds to describe their research using the power point slide. A brief poster viewing session followed the oral presentations, after which presenters were asked to participate in an open discussion. I had a lot of interest in my poster, got great feedback, and found this new session style to be very effective at fostering discussion.

However, the highlight of the conference for me was the opportunity to co-chair a major symposium with my advisor, Dr. Patricia Sime. A year prior to the meeting, Dr. Sime and I submitted a proposal for a symposium that we titled "Abnormal Metabolism: Emerging Concepts in Understanding Lung Disease". We were very excited to learn our proposal was chosen. We invited five leading experts in lung metabolomics to talk at the symposium. This experience provided me with a unique opportunity to meet experts in my area of research and to help lead a thoughtful discussion on how dysregulated cellular metabolism contributes to lung disease.

Lastly, I participated in the conference's mentoring program, which matched me with a senior investigator from another university who has similar research interests. My mentor met with me one-on-one to discuss career goals and provided great advice for finding a postdoctoral position. I found the mentor match program to be incredibly helpful for both networking and career advice.

Overall, I had a highly productive, educational, and professional meeting at the American Thoracic Society Conference. Once again, I am very grateful for the travel award from GWIS, and I am happy to share some of my experiences with the University of Rochester community.