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University of Rochester Graduate Women in Science Supported Travel Award

Gordon Research Conference and Seminar in Hemostasis, Waterville Valley, NH, USA

July 28-August 3 2018

I would like to thank the Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) for supporting my travel to the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) and the accompanying Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) on Hemostasis. GRCs are small, specialized conferences in which experts in the field, along with newcomers, to meet and exchange ideas, show unpublished data, and network. GRSs are one day conferences for trainees that precede the main GRC. GRSs give trainees the opportunity to network and become familiar with each other before the arrival of senior scientists and more intense seminars.

I presented a poster at both the GRS and GRC entitled "Exploring the mechanism of platelet dysregulation by the HIV protease inhibitor ritonavir". Due to the focus on Hemostasis, I received thoughtful comments and suggestions that I will incorporate into my project. Additionally, during poster sessions and informal social events, I was able to meet with PIs from labs that interest me and learned of several opportunities for post-doctoral positions. Thanks to the contacts I made during the GRS, which consists largely of trainees, I was also introduced to and networked with several PIs.

One unique opportunity at this GRC is the "GRC power hour", which is an open forum designed to help address the challenges women face in science. At the power hour we formed groups to discuss the biggest issues in the community and come up with potential solutions. It was an interesting discussion that I am glad to have participated in. These issues and solutions were written down such that the GRC committee could evaluate what they could do to address them.

Overall, thanks to GWIS and the Pulmonary Biology T32 training grant supporting my travel, I was able to make formal and informal connections with interesting labs, gain valuable feedback on my project, and learn about cutting edge research in my field. Attending these meetings was invaluable.