

**Graduate Women in Science Travel Report**  
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I would like to thank Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) for the generous travel award that allowed me to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology in Frankfurt am Main, Germany from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is the premier meeting for students, postdoctoral fellows, research staff and principal investigators studying various aspects of eukaryotic biology in yeast. It provided me the opportunity to present my research to a diverse group of researchers from a variety of disciplines.

At the conference I was able to hear a variety of talks that ranged from gene regulation to organelle biogenesis and degradation. I especially enjoyed the plenary session that presented several ways that yeast are currently being utilized in various aspects of biotechnology. The exposure to the wide-ranging topics helped me to place my research into a broader context. As someone who studies mitochondrial DNA repair it was enlightening to hear how other scientists are studying and thinking about how mitochondria are involved in a wide range of cellular processes.

I was able to present my latest research during the poster sessions entitled “Repair of Induced Double-Strand Breaks in Mitochondrial DNA”. We have been able to demonstrate that several members of the *Rad52* epistasis group directly influence the repair of double-strand breaks in the yeast mitochondrial genome. In the past I have mainly attended meetings that were focused on DNA repair. This was my first international meeting where I presented this work to such a large and diverse audience. It was especially encouraging to meet international researchers who follow our labs’ work. They were most helpful in offering constructive feedback. I would not have had the opportunity to discuss my work with such individuals without attending this meeting.

I would like to thank GWIS for supporting my attendance at the 26<sup>th</sup> International Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology meeting. It was an extraordinary opportunity to share my work and interact with scientists from all over the world. Attending this conference was definitely one of the highlights of my graduate career.