

GWIS Travel Award Experience Overview

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I recently attended the Upstate NY RNA Symposium in Albany, NY on March 15-17th where I was able to share my research on genetic variants of Integrator linked to neurodevelopmental disorders in human patients. I presented my work as a poster and I engaged in meaningful discussions that resulted in inspiration for future directions as well as potential technical solutions for experiments. I also attended numerous talks on various RNA related topics including a talk on the neurodevelopmental disorder Cornelia de Lange Syndrome, which shares similar phenotypes to Integrator-linked neurodevelopmental disorders. These discussions and talks not only provided valuable insight to improve my current research, but they also provided valuable learning experiences that I will carry with me throughout my scientific career.

Another valuable component of this symposium was having the chance to connect with other RNA researchers located in the upstate New York region. In addition to the poster session and talks, I had an opportunity to attend a networking dinner with approximately 250 local RNA biologists to further develop my connections within the local RNA community. I am thankful to GWIS for supporting my attendance at this meeting; I was able to gain valuable experience and hear about the amazing RNA research occurring in the region.