

I had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of the Biophysical Society recently held in Philadelphia, PA. I was able to present my results on how two different linker histone (H1) subtypes, each having been postulated to affect chromatin structure differently, contribute to chromatin compaction. Understanding this is important for further elucidating the regulation of such a dynamic structure, which is central to many processes in the cell nucleus (transcription, DNA repair, replication). In presenting my results, I was able to obtain very helpful feedback on next steps toward my PhD thesis work, which focuses on how different H1 subtypes and potential H1-nucleosome binding modes modulate chromatin structure and function.

I met so many very intelligent and kind scientists who are working on extremely challenging and interesting biophysical questions. Moreover, I learned quite a bit of useful information about my own field at this meeting. This meeting has challenged me to think not only about my field but also about science in general from a completely different perspective. Attending this meeting has also challenged me to further understand the plethora of novel biophysical techniques that were presented.

I am extremely grateful to the University of Rochester Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) for financial support and to my advisor Jeffrey J. Hayes for his scientific counsel.

Attending this meeting has further inspired my lifelong pursuit of and passion for learning, and it allowed me to make long-lasting connections with scientists all over the globe.