

This July 11th through 15th, I attended the International Herpesvirus Workshop in Montreal Canada, where I presented a poster on my work studying the role of the prolyl-glutamyl tRNA synthetase (EPRS) in human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) infection. Presenting my work at the poster session allowed me to make connections with other young herpesvirus researchers also interested in tRNA and to talk about methods and interesting RNA research together. I also got positive feedback, interest, and input on my work from more senior herpesvirus scientists. At another poster session, I was able to attend posters of students with similar research interests in different herpesviruses and got a better understanding of how my work fits amongst the work being done in the field. Finally, I was able to attend a large number of talks studying herpesvirus infection from a single cell level to a whole organism level, interacting with a broader range of relevant research than I have previously sought out on my own or with my lab mates.