

Aislinn Betts

Graduation Year: Junior

College: Science

Major(s): Science-Business

Minors(s): N/A

Scholar Group Membership: N/A

Did you received other funding for this project?: College of Science

Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No

More details on CUSE funding assistance? The registration for the conference and the trip to New York were costly and it would have been difficult to pay for it on my own. The grant provided by CUSE significantly reduced this burden and made the trip possible.

Project Title: Sub-Surface Laser Engraving of Glass Crystals for the Visualization of PET or CT Data

Project Location: New York City, New York

ND Faculty Mentor: W. Matthew Leevy

Project Type: Conference - Attendance

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Career discernment and/or preparation

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much

[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Yes

[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Yes

[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: A Little

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Yes

Tell us about your experience.

Through the grant, I was able to attend the World Molecular Imaging Congress in New York City. I had the opportunity to listen to key scientists discuss their work utilizing molecular imaging technology. Attending these lectures allowed me to learn more about molecular imaging, advancements being made in the field, and how these discoveries are being implemented to improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease. In addition, I presented a poster on the use of sub-surface laser engraving of glass crystals to visualize PET or CT data. It was rewarding to make a contribution to the scientific community and listen to the input from leading professionals in the field. Furthermore, meeting the company that sponsors our lab allowed me to learn about their new technologies and share what their support has allowed us to do. Thus, attending the World Molecular Imaging Congress substantially increased my knowledge about molecular imaging, enhanced my poster presentation skills, and created the opportunity to personally thank our sponsor.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.

The invaluable knowledge gained through this experience will be vital in current research endeavors and future goals. Through attending talks by leading scientists, I learned various ways imaging modalities can be utilized to study disease. This information has been passed on to my principal investigator and will be incorporated in our work. Furthermore, presenting our research at an international conference allowed our lab to share our work and increase awareness about the usefulness of sub-surface laser engraving in scientific education. As a student-scholar, I was inspired by the captivating lectures. These presentations illustrated the impact imaging has on the research and medical communities and have consequently encouraged me to continue conducting research in this field in hopes of making a similar contribution.

Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.

This memorable experience will contribute greatly to my development as a student and future physician. The knowledge gained from this conference will be incorporated in my work as an undergraduate researcher. I plan to implement the techniques and technologies discussed at the conference. I intend on staying engaged with the research community through learning about recent discoveries and interacting with research scientists. Having an understanding of research will be beneficial as a physician since discoveries made through research lead to more accurate diagnoses and improved treatment. Thus, by keeping up with the latest discoveries, I will be able to provide my patients with the best possible care.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

I would wholeheartedly encourage anyone who is considering attending a conference to do so. It is an eye-opening experience that exposes one to what the field has to offer. One not only hears about intriguing projects professionals have engaged in but also ideas for future endeavors. Attending a conference also allows one the opportunity to interact with and learn from people in the field. To ensure that one can get the most of the experience, it is advisable to plan ahead. Booking hotels, flights, and transportation early on will allow one to get the best rates and ensure hotels and flights are in convenient locations and at convenient times. Figuring out what lectures one wishes to attend is also beneficial. Furthermore, it is encouraged to engage in conversation with individuals at the conference since it is a great way to learn even more about the field and network.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.

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