

Lauren Davancaze

Graduation Year: Junior

College: Science

Major(s): Biochemistry

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?

Project Title: Structural Characterization of the TIL 1383I T Cell Receptor

Project Location: San Diego, CA

ND Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Baker

Project Type: Conference - Presentation

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Prepare for graduate school (MA or PhD), Prepare for national fellowships, 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]: Very Much

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

[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Very Much

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Very Much

Tell us about your experience.

I attended the Experimental Biology Conference hosted by the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in San Diego, CA, where I gave a poster presentation on my research regarding the "Structural Characterization of the TIL 1383I T Cell Receptor." I gained valuable experience in oral presentation and received an Honorable Mention for my poster presentation in the Undergraduate Poster Competition. I also attended many interesting and useful talks by other leading scientists in the field.

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

Presenting my research on T cell receptors in a national setting was very impactful in allowing me to witness and participate in the collaborative nature of the scientific community. I improved my presentation skills, networked with my peers, became exposed to a variety of career options, and heard firsthand about the breakthrough science being conducted by preeminent scholars across the country. It was valuable for me to share this experience with another graduate student and to bring what I learned back to my lab.

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

I plan on attending graduate school to pursue my Ph.D., so presenting at a national conference serves as excellent preparation for my graduate studies. It also helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the caliber of research going on across the country, how networking is intrinsic to the scientific research community, and what kinds of careers are available to me after graduate studies.

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

I would highly encourage students conducting research to seek national presentation opportunities. It's an incredible experience to share your work and to hear about the research being conducted by the esteemed leaders in your field. It will broaden your perspective, help you grow as a researcher, and inspire you to continue doing great things in the future.

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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