

April 15, 2022

Heather Juzwa  
Pittsburgh Section ACS Travel Grants  
Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc.

Dear Committee Members of the Pittsburgh Section ACS Travel Grant:

I would like to thank the ACS Pittsburgh section for awarding me this travel grant. As a fourth-year graduate student in Dr. Kay Brummond's group at the University of Pittsburgh, I was excited for this opportunity to share my research. The ACS Spring 2022 conference in San Diego, California began with my poster session entitled "Design and synthesis of guaianolide analogs" on Sunday. Presenting my work was an extremely rewarding experience. Not only was I able to share my progress, but also the poster session allowed me to discuss the problems I was facing and to consider possible solutions. During the poster session, I was able to speak with past and current collaborators, such as Dr. Dan Harki and Dr. Alison Narayan, and connect with new individuals from undergrad to industry. Overall, the poster session was one of the highlights of this conference.

From the various talks I attended, I learned about some of the new advances in industry, such as monoclonal antibody candidates at the Industrial Early Career Investigator symposium, or the benefits of deuterium in drug-approved compounds at the Deuterium in Medicinal Chemistry session. In addition, the conference provided me the chance to reconnect with people from a previous internship. It was great to meet so many people. I attended several workshops to aid my professional development, including Networking: How to Get Started, Careers in Industrial Chemistry: Finding Your Link in the Industry Value Chain, Résumé Development: Marketing Your Brand for an Industrial Chemistry Position, and Opportunities in the Federal Government. These workshops equipped me with valuable tips and information on the possible pathways my career may take, as well as ways to secure a job best suited for myself.

Outside of this great scientific experience at the conference, I enjoyed the Californian sunshine while exploring Balboa Park, La Jolla and Coronado beach. The ACS Spring 2022 conference was a memorable experience, and I am very grateful for this opportunity. Thank you again to the Pittsburgh ACS Section for this generous grant.

Sincerely,  
Mariah Meehan

