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Winter 2024

## **Investigating the formation of protein complexes within the BREX bacterial defense system**

Sydney McGuire

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Sydney McGuire

## ASBMB Conference Summary

This spring, I had the opportunity to travel to San Antonio, TX to attend the ASBMB Discover BMB 2024 Conference. I was accepted to present the research I've completed under the mentorship of Dr. Brett Kaiser in the Biology Department. I presented my poster in an undergraduate poster competition with over 300 participants, and a second time during a larger poster presentation session. Throughout my preparation for this conference, I developed skills in presenting a complex research topic effectively and concisely. I also received helpful feedback about my presentation from poster judges. I especially enjoyed learning about research projects from the other poster presenters during these sessions. I spent much of the remainder of my time attending research symposia relating to a wide variety of subjects including chromatin organization, RNA and translation, structural biology, and much more! While these presentations were targeted more towards post-doctoral students and Ph.D. scientists, it was inspiring to learn about the vast variety of research within these topics. These also served as great examples of the types of presentations I might do in my future career.

Along with discussing research, this conference also offered opportunities for career advice and networking. I signed up for a one-on-one mentoring session where I discussed career plans with a mentor. I received insight on what to expect from graduate school and tips on how I could improve my resume. I attended a speed-networking event where professionals from different fields would rotate through tables of undergraduates and talk about their career and answer questions. This was a great chance to meet people with diverse experiences and career paths. I also attended the Women's Networking Dinner event that featured a panel of female scientists. Learning about each of the panelist's careers was inspiring, and the strong sense of community at this event was uplifting!

I'm truly grateful to have attended this national conference with my lab partner! Every day, we planned to attend as many events as possible to maximize our learning experiences. The diversity within the research and the scientific community made for an inspirational conference experience!