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Screening of Vitrification Solution for Single-Mode Electromagnetic Rewarming System for Organ Cryopreservation

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Karin Stoddart

International Society for Cryobiology (CRYO2024) Conference

Thanks to the Student Travel Award, provided by the Lemieux Library and McGoldrick Learning Commons, I was able to attend the International Society for Cryobiology (CRYO2024) Conference on July 23-25 in Washington, D.C. I have been involved in interdisciplinary scientific/engineering research for just over a year at Seattle University. Attending a conference exposed me to a new side of academic research. I learned a great amount about the theory and practice of my research field- cryopreservation. At CRYO2024, I was able to talk directly to the experts of cryopreservation, and discuss concepts from their teams' publications. At talks and presentations, I learned about the cutting edge of cryo research- even developments that have not yet been published in journals. I have begun to make connections between this new knowledge and the projects I am working on, and I am confident that this infusion of new ideas will accelerate my own research in the coming year. My role on Dr. Shen Ren's research team involves investigating the optimal composition of cryoprotective agents under the conditions of single-mode electromagnetic resonance rewarming technology. Many of the presentations I attended covered topics directly related to cryoprotective agent optimization, which gave me a fresh perspective on how others are approaching this problem. In addition to learning from other cryobiologists, I had the incredible opportunity to present a poster on my research. I hope to attend graduate school and pursue a career in or adjacent to research. As poster presentations are common in this profession, this conference was essential practice for my career development. Although I have presented a poster at the Seattle University STEM Research Showcase, presenting my poster at CRYO2024 was a unique opportunity to present to people very familiar with the concepts involved in my work. On top of learning and developing skills, attending this conference was also productive socially. Being at an in-person event helped me network with people in my field from all around the world. I met professors at institutions who are looking for PhD students, graduate students whose career paths inspire my final years of my undergraduate degree, and professionals from countries as far away as Slovakia. Traveling with members of my research team was also a unique opportunity to get to know them better, and I believe those moments of team bonding will allow us to work together more efficiently going forward. I am greatly appreciative of the Student Travel Award, which facilitated a massive amount of learning and growth as a research assistant and STEM student.