

Thanks to the student travel grant award from the Pittsburgh section of ACS, I was able to attend the 246th ACS national meeting & exposition held in Indianapolis from Sep 7th to 12th 2013. I am a graduate student at Duquesne University advised by Dr David Lapinsky working on the design and synthesis of chemical probes for mapping the binding sites and poses of protein targets implicated in psychostimulant abuse and addiction. I am soon graduating with a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry and this was my third ACS meeting I've attended so far. Like always, the meeting was great for my professional development and I learned a great deal about the research going around in the world in the fields of organic and medicinal chemistry. My talk on "the design and synthesis of photoaffinity probes for mapping the binding sites and poses of Metabotropic glutamate receptors type 2 (mGlu2)" during the general oral session received a positive feedback. It was exciting to present in front of a diverse audience and to answer their questions. Most important highlights of my ACS meeting were the talks given by Drs. Shaun Stauffer and Craig Lindsley on the research work they are doing on allosteric modulators of metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGlu) at Vanderbilt University. Another great talk that I attended was by Professor Stephen Buchwald during his Arthur C. Cope award address. I learnt that not only is he a pioneer in the field of organometallic chemistry but he is also an entertainer and an impressive speaker. During the general and sci-mix poster sessions, I took advantage of the opportunity to talk to various professors and their students about possibilities of future collaborations and also potential post-doc positions. I also went to the exposition hall where I got to know about all the new and state-of-the-art instruments available from the vendors ranging from advanced automated chromatographic separation units, bench-top NMR machines, highly sensitive mass spectrometers, microwave reactors, portable hydrogenation apparatus, industrial scale rotovaps, high efficiency vacuum pumps, etc. The recruiter's row at the exposition also gave me a chance to talk to company professionals about the upcoming job opportunities and openings. I also went for a resume review at the career fair and received useful career advice from an ACS consultant. Overall, my experience at this year's ACS meeting was extremely helpful. As a final year graduate student, I took the advantage of this opportunity to explore possible career pathways, make valuable contacts, meet employers, network with other research professionals and broaden my future prospects. Finally, I also took some time off to explore the beautiful city of Indianapolis and saw few of its landmarks such as the Lucas oil stadium, soldiers and sailors monument and the canal walk.

Thank you Pittsburgh Section of ACS for such an unforgettable and valuable experience!

