

IMP Student Spotlight

Spring/Summer 2018



Madelyn Houser
Tansey Lab

Madelyn Houser of the Tansey Lab recently seized the opportunity to share her work at two separate, unique speaking engagements. First, she was invited to discuss how changes in the composition of the gut microbiome could relate to inflammation and shared her ongoing research highlighting mechanisms by which gut inflammation could produce parkinsonian pathology in the brain at the NeuroConX Innovation Exchange.

This meeting was unique in that it drew scientists in academia and industry as well as laypeople. Next, Madelyn received a "Future of Science Fund Scholarship" to attend the Keystone Symposium, "New Frontiers in Inflammation: What Happens When CNS and Periphery Meet?" Here she presented her newest research findings showing that intestinal inflammation can produce pathological changes in the brain that, in humans, could play a role in the development of Parkinson's disease. Her scholarship also allowed her to participate in a special career panel while at the symposium. Learn more about each event by visiting the following:

<https://neuroconx.com/>

<http://www.keystonesymposia.org/index.cfme=Web.Account.Scholar.Apply>



Maria White
Lowen Lab

Maria White from the Lowen Lab was selected to give a plenary talk at the NIAID Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (CEIRS) Network Meeting this past July held at the New York Academy of Medicine. Her talk, entitled "Heterologous packaging signals on HA, but not NA, limit influenza A virus reassortment," focused on the concept of segment mismatch. Maria also had a review article accepted for publication on this same topic in the Journal of General

Virology entitled "Implications of segment mismatch for influenza A virus evolution." You can learn more here!

<http://jgv.microbiologyresearch.org/content/journal/jgv/10.1099/jgv.0.000989#tab2>

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Jessica Shartouny
Jacob Lab

Like Maria and Madelyn mentioned above, Jacob Lab member, Jessica Shartouny, has been eagerly sharing exciting results from her research with the broader scientific community. This past year, she was awarded Third Place Oral Presentation at the Emory DSAC Student Research Symposium in January for a talk on her research on frog peptide discovery. Ms. Shartouny was also awarded Third Place Poster Presentation at the Southeastern Pediatric Research Conference in June hosted at the Georgia Aquarium. Her poster, entitled, "Harnessing an innate frog defense peptide as an an X-influenza agent" won 3rd place from among a pool of finalists by attendee voting after the poster sessions. Finally, in May, Jessica traveled to Beirut, Lebanon for the International Society for Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Diseases' 2018 School of Respiratory viruses. Here she presented her research in an oral talk to an audience of international influenza experts and students and also participated in the week-long course on respiratory virus policy, research techniques, and drug development.



Jessica McCaffery
Moreno Lab

Jessica McCaffery of the Moreno Lab learned this summer that she has been selected to participate in the Young Investigator Award Competition at the 67th Annual American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) Meeting, held this fall in New Orleans, LA. We wish her all the luck in that competition in which she'll be judged on both her oral and poster presentations. Additionally, this spring, Ms. McCaffery published an article entitled "Inclusion of the murine IgG_k signal peptide increases the cellular immunogenicity of a simian adenoviral vectored Plasmodium vivax multistage vaccine" in the Elsevier Journal: Vaccine. To learn more, read the full article at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29657070>

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Sarah Connolly
Hunter Lab

Sarah Connolly of the Hunter Lab was the recipient of a Global Health Individual Field Scholar Award. This is awarded by the Emory Global Health Institute and provides funding for recipients to “conduct short-term global health projects focusing on underserved and/or vulnerable populations around the world.” Funding from this award enabled Sarah to spend 10 weeks this summer doing research at two of the Hunter lab’s field sites in Zambia. To learn more about the award, visit:

http://globalhealth.emory.edu/what/student_programs/student_funding_opportunities/individuals.html



Taryn McLaughlin
Day Lab

This past spring semester, Ms. Connolly also teamed up with IMP colleague, Taryn McLaughlin from the Day Lab, and four other students from Laney Graduate School, Rollins School of Public Health, the School of Medicine, and the School of Nursing to compete in Emory's Intramural Global Health Case Competition. This competition is a week long event in which interdisciplinary teams compete to develop a solution to a current global health issue. Each team then presents their strategy to a panel of judges from

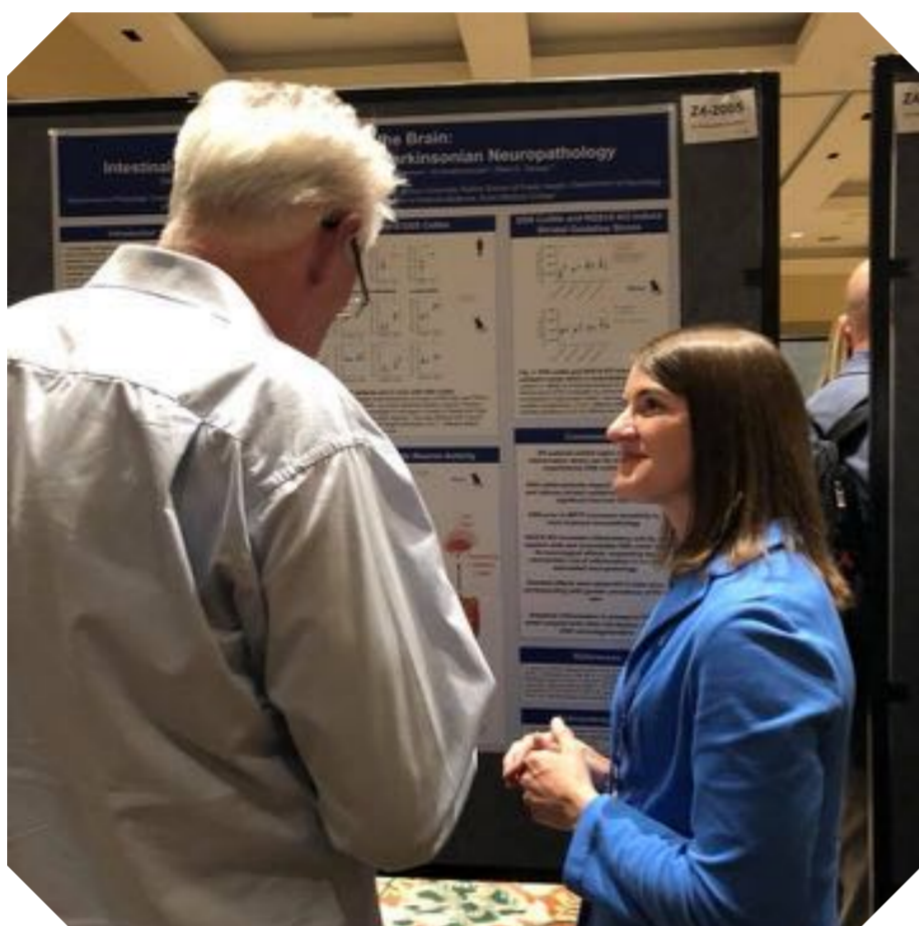
Emory, the CDC and other related institutions and businesses around Atlanta. The case from the intramural competition was to propose solutions to improve refugee health and wellness in Atlanta for the president of the fictional Atlanta-based Henry University. Their team won 1st place and then competed in the International Global Health Case Competition where they also won 1st place! The case for the International Competition was to develop a strategy to address an infectious disease outbreak in Qatar prior to the 2022 World Cup. Sarah and Taryn's team won 1st place in both the Emory and International competitions due to their innovative and well researched strategies as well as their ability to address questions of ethics and sustainability. To learn more visit

http://globalhealth.emory.edu/what/student_programs/case_competitions/2018_intramural_cc.html

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IMP Students Around the World



Madelyn Houser shares her work at the Keystone Symposia, "New Frontiers in Neuroinflammation: What Happens When CNS and Periphery Meet?" in Keystone, Colorado.



Sarah Connolly prepares for a day of field work in Zambia.



Jessica Shartouny gets ready to present her research to colleagues in Beirut, Lebanon.

