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Studies: Osteoclast biology
Specialization: Mechanisms of osteoclast-mediated bone

Short bio:

I am from a small town, Utica, IL, where I was raised and lived nearly my entire life. My parents and family have always been and still are some of my biggest supporters in my career as a scientist. I attended Loras College in Dubuque, IA for my undergraduate studies and graduated with a degree in Biological Research and a minor in Chemistry. During my summers of undergrad, I had the opportunity to work at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN under the supervision of Dr. Megan Weivoda, my current PI, where I studied age related bone loss. I also participated in a summer research experience at Washington University in St. Louis studying autophagy proteins influenced by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection. After graduating from Loras College in 2019, I began the next fall at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I am currently a student in Dr. Megan Weivoda's lab studying the modulation of osteoclast behavior by the immune microenvironment. I have been committed to her lab for a few months and am looking forward to continuing my graduate studies with her lab! In my free time I love to read, have deep theological conversations, play chess, hike, run, bake, paint, and spend time with friends and family.

What do you expect from this training?

I am looking forward mostly to the networking opportunities. I hope to get connected with new colleagues and get my name out there to other researchers. Giving a short talk about my research goals will be good practice for me to orally present my research and get feedback from other colleagues as well. I expect to learn a lot and be immersed into the world of bone biology! Being a pretty niche field, I am excited to be (virtually) surrounded by likeminded individuals.

Bonus question: What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning?

The desire to have another day to improve myself as a person and as a scientist!