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### **Short bio:**

I am a PhD candidate at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana, but initially I am from central Florida. I began my research journey in reproductive immunology studying the role of macrophages in the uterus, and since coming to Indianapolis to work with Dr. Lilian Plotkin I have learned to love the cousin to the macrophage – the osteoclast! My research currently focuses on the role of bone and muscle intercommunication in various disease states, primarily neurodegeneration. I am also co-mentored by Dr. Andrea Bonetto where my work focuses on the mechanisms underlying musculoskeletal wasting in chemotherapy-induced cachexia.

Beyond my research, science communication and outreach have been central to my passion as a researcher. I am the Indianapolis coordinator for taste of science festival, I am involved in a local non-profit science outreach organization, and I regularly volunteer to talk to grade school classrooms about science. Researchers are funded by taxpayers, and it is our duty to share with them our progress in an approachable and understandable way.

My career goals include working in science policy at a state or federal level, where I can be involved in the drafting and analysis of legislation in the hopes of retaining scientific integrity in the decision making process.

### **What do you expect from this training?**

I hope to learn some of the latest and greatest in bone biology from leading experts in the field. I also hope to expand my professional network by connecting with researchers across the globe. I hope to take advantage of the virtual platform and do things like connecting on Research Gate or LinkedIN live. I hope that, with this training, I will not only gain a better understanding for the field of bone research but also leave with a better connection to the amazing researchers who make it all possible!

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

My adorable cat and loving fiancé.