



## Short bio

I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD student studying Veterinary Integrative Biosciences at Texas A&M University. My current studies focus on further characterization of the musculoskeletal phenotype of our novel sheep large animal model for Hypophosphatasia (HPP). I graduated with Research Honors from the University of Illinois with a Major in Molecular and Cellular Biology and a Minor in Chemistry. Previously, my research focused on increasing the osteoblastogenic potential of porcine adipose derived stem cells through the addition of zinc and vitamin D3. Once I graduate with my PhD I hope to continue my research of musculoskeletal physiology and stem cell biology in the field of regenerative medicine.

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## What do you expect from this training?

From this training, I hope to expand my knowledge of bone metabolism and homeostasis. As my project focuses on a mutation that interferes with alkaline phosphatase, attending the “Clinical aspects of heteroptic ossifications & mineralization defects” seminar would allow me insights into the field of knowledge historically and to date, with potential to expand on what is known in our project. The networking opportunities will be helpful to not only learn who is studying similar fields as I am, but also to learn new approaches and techniques that I can apply to my own research.

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

The fact that I get to participate in the cutting edge of my field and actively work to make the world a better place keeps me motivated.