

# OPSCD Funds UConn MD/PhD Student to Attend the 58<sup>th</sup> McKusick Short Course



Attendees and speakers for the 58<sup>th</sup> McKusick Short Course

Grace Kwon, a second-year graduate student (4<sup>th</sup> year MD/PhD), recently attended the 58<sup>th</sup> McKusick Short Course at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME with funding from UConn Health's Office of Physician-Scientist Career Development, Graduate Program, and The Jackson Laboratory.

First established in 1960, the short course consists of lectures and workshops from invited speakers who are distinguished leaders in their respective fields. A wide range of topics included the genetics of age-related macular degeneration, pharmacogenomics, metabolomics, 3D genomic architecture of mammalian brain development, and approaches to single-cell analysis.

Grace commented on the experience, *"I am extremely grateful for the chance to have attended such an in-depth course in a field that will shape both my clinical and scientific career. The quality of speakers was incredible, and it is very motivating to hear about such exciting advances in genetics and the state of where the field, both in the clinic and in research, might be once I start my own career."*

Along with lectures, Grace also participated in various workshops. *"A really exciting opportunity I had was getting to assess a patient with Dr. Harry Dietz, a renowned expert on Marfan syndrome and long-time researcher on connective tissue disorders. It was incredibly humbling and such a great educational experience. I also met many other graduate students from across the country as well, and it is encouraging to be alongside peers who are just as curious as you are in how genetics can shape the future of medicine. I can't thank enough the Office of Physician-Scientist Career Development, the Graduate School, and the Jackson Laboratory for funding my attendance."*



**Top:** This year's Chen Kang and Ling Chi Chai Lecturer, Nobel Prize winner Harold Varmus, former Director of the National Cancer Institute

**Bottom:** Grace enjoying Acadia National Park during her day off