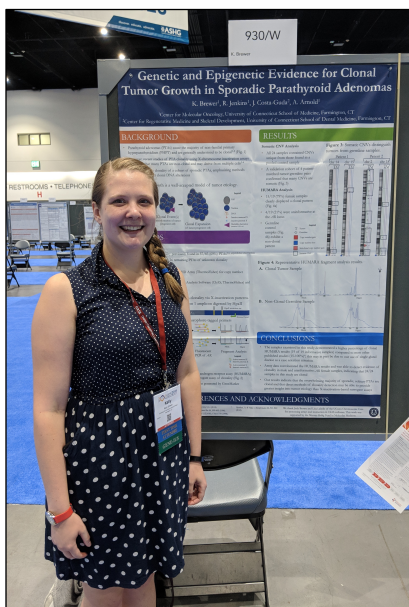


UConn Health PhD and MD/PhD Students Attend ASHG 2018 Meeting

October 2018



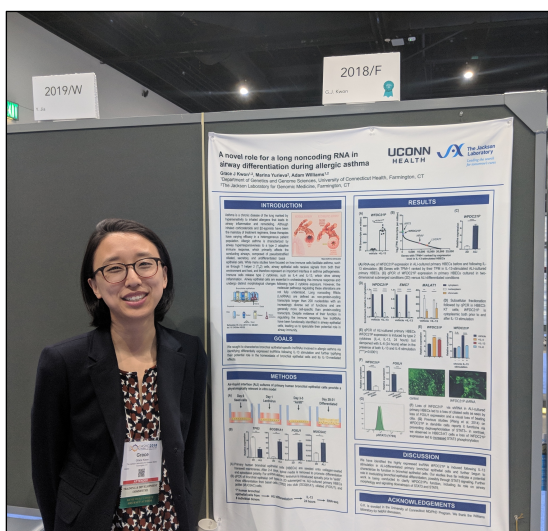
Kelly Brewer, 5th-year graduate student in the Biomedical Science PhD program, presents her poster on sporadic parathyroid adenomas.

UConn Health graduate students Grace Kwon (MD/PhD Student, GS3) and Kelly Brewer (PhD Student, GS5) recently attended the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) 2018 Annual Meeting, held in San Diego, CA from October 15-20. The world's largest gathering of human genetics professionals, the meeting included events ranging from invited symposia; plenary, platform, and poster sessions; education and trainee workshops; and public policy sessions.

Kelly Brewer commented, "The meeting was well organized and I was able to share my work on clonality in sporadic parathyroid adenomas, meet fellow trainees, and attend some valuable professional development sessions, such as a workshop on publications, where I was able to meet with editors from multiple journals."

Both Grace Kwon (Advisor: Dr. Adam Williams) and Kelly Brewer (Advisor: Dr. Andrew Arnold) presented posters at the ASHG meeting. Grace Kwon, whose travel was significantly sponsored by the Office of Physician-Scientist Career Development, was awarded Reviewer's Choice Abstract, competitively scoring in the top 10% of poster abstracts by topic.

Grace Kwon was also recently selected to serve on the ASHG's Training and Development Committee. The Training and Development Committee is composed of ASHG trainee members and responsible for recommending and, upon Board approval, carrying out activities that are concerned with the needs of ASHG trainee members, such as career and professional development.



Grace Kwon, a 3rd-year graduate student in the MD/PhD program, presents her poster on long noncoding RNAs in allergic asthma. Grace received the distinction of Reviewer's Choice Abstract.

As part of her duties, Grace Kwon and other committee members coordinated the trainee-focused events at the annual meeting, such as career panels focused on both academic and industry positions in the biomedical sciences and genetics; a networking reception with trainees and established professionals in a wide range of genetics-related careers; and a session focused on resiliency in academic training led by Dr. Diana Azurdia. Grace Kwon will continue to serve on the Training and Development Committee through at least 2020.



Grace Kwon with other trainee committee members at the annual meeting.

Grace Kwon noted, "I'm exceedingly thankful to the Office of Physician-Scientist Career Development for supporting my travel to the ASHG meeting so that I could carry out my duties as a member of the ASHG Training and Development Committee and also present my research at such a large conference. Being on the Training and Development Committee has been incredibly rewarding, and it is no doubt that my involvement with the MD/PhD Program and Office of Physician-Scientist Career Development has both prepared me and been complementary for the work we have done at the meeting and continue to do throughout the year."