

I want to again thank the British Pharmacological Society and the family of Sir Colin Dollery for selecting me as one of the recipients for the Sir Colin Dollery Pharmacology Training Award this year.

This academic year, 22/23, I have undertaken an intercalated Pharmacology BSc degree, and I was informed of my eligibility to apply for the Sir Colin Dollery Pharmacology Training Award through my medical school. I decided to apply as the award would provide me with a great contribution towards my funding throughout my final few years at university. I applied without the expectation I would be the recipient, and so I was shocked and delighted when I received the news that I had been selected as one of the two recipients for this award nationally.

Receiving this award inspired me to dedicate myself this year to my pharmacology degree, to work hard to produce work of value and honour the British Pharmacological Society's decision to choose me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year carrying out my intercalated Pharmacology BSc, and this year has provided me with an opportunity to discover my love for research and academics, and it is something I am keen to continue throughout my career in medicine.

Throughout my pharmacology degree I have covered many aspects of pharmacology, ranging from cardiovascular pharmacology, drug toxicity, chemotherapy and many more. I have undertaken two research projects this year, learning both theoretical and practical research skills. My first project was a literature review, in which I reviewed the literature surrounding whether there is a genetic involvement in antipsychotic-induced metabolic disease; this topic is encompassed in the theme of personalised medicine, combined with psychiatry which has always been an area of interest for me since taking A level psychology. Personalised medicine is now an area of research I have great interest in and I am keen to research this area further, as I believe it is the future of medicine. This research project gave me great skills in scanning databases for relevant papers and information, and then formatting this information into a review.

For my second research project, I spent 6 weeks carrying out practical work in a lab and wrote up my findings as a lab report. My project aimed to identify whether novel tryptophan derivatives were substrates for the LAT1 transporter, in the hope to utilise these novel compounds for targeted drug delivery, to increase delivery of therapeutic drugs across the blood brain barrier and into cancer cells via the LAT1 transporter, which is present at both the blood brain barrier and on certain cancer cells. I really enjoyed the practical aspects of this project as I have never been in a lab before, and this provided me with great experience and a skillset that I would never otherwise have been exposed to.

This award has definitely influenced my decision to pursue academic research in pharmacology throughout my career, and I am so grateful for the opportunities this award has given me, including the many great pharmacologists I have met throughout the year, providing me with some great contacts that may aid me throughout my career.

I would advise any students thinking about applying for this award to just apply, as without submitting an application you will never know if you will be successful. In your application, I

would recommend being as personable as possible and really express your passion for pharmacology. I want to wish good luck to any future applicants for your application!