

The studentship was awarded to me in 2019 but carried out in summer of 2020, which was spent learning cell culture techniques and doing cAMP accumulation assays of the melanocortin 3 receptor. The interest around this receptor was established because of links to obesity and aberrant feeding habits, which is well stated in the literature. This project consisted of the duality of two multi-disciplinary fields-pharmacology, and neuroscience. Throughout the 10 weeks, I was constantly improving my knowledge with plenty of recommended papers from my supervisor as well as learning pharmacological techniques.

The focus shifted to a repurposed drug, fenoprofen calcium- suggested to act as a positive allosteric modulator at MC3R. This was confirmed by transfecting HEK293T cells with MC3R DNA to show an increase in cAMP production. The work I had done for this project led me to my BSc Y3 project with the same supervisor and team. Thanks to the support from Dr. Peter McCormick and the progress made from the BPS vacation studentship, my career goals are more realistic. Following completion of this project, I am now considering an MRes to further my technical skills and learn more about neuropharmacology.