

During my trip to the Biophysical Society's conference in New Orleans, I was exposed to an environment that was extremely conducive to my research efforts. The daily poster sessions allowed me to connect with people who might be of interest for my future research projects and even a few who work on the same line of proteins as myself. A Nobel laureate gave the national lecture near the end of the conference, and he encouraged us to work toward engineering solutions that would help future biophysicists in their research.

The symposia talks given every morning would highlight the more cutting-edge research going on in the field, from the dynamics of proteins in a zebrafish cell to high-resolution computer simulations of proteins systems in a crowded human cell. These talks were always intriguing and sometimes inspiring, inciting loud applause from the thousands of other scientists present. Sometimes they leaned toward a more philosophical tone, as in the case of a symposium given on the ethical implications of CRISPR, a recent technological development that makes genomic alterations far easier than previously-used methods. The discussion featured a panel of professionals from a variety of backgrounds to lend their opinions.

Attending this conference changed my perspective on collaborative research and will affect the way I conduct research from now on. I thank the Honors College for their contribution to help me attend.