Watson School 2017 Ph.D.s

Brillante N. Caulicoff
University of Saskatchewan
Edward and Martha Gerry Fellow
NSERC Scholar

I made it! There were a few snags, but the reward for moving forward—the incredible opportunity to work in a place so passionate about discovery—easily outweighed the setbacks. I’ve grown immeasurably as a scientist, learning to perform rigorous experiments. I also had the pleasure to talk with researchers from around the world and explore fields well beyond my own imagining. I would like to thank everyone who made this such a fantastic journey.

Matthew Sungmin Koh
University of California, Berkeley
George A. and Marjorie H. Anderson Fellow

There is something exciting and different about the way that CSHL’s community views the world. It’s here that you learn there is no scientific problem that cannot be solved with the right mix of tenacity and support. CSHL has given me the opportunity to study—at the molecular level—a class of receptors that are fundamental for learning and memory. With this project, I was able to answer previously unsolved questions—the essence of being a scientist. Even as my journey at the Watson School ends here, I’m taking with me all the knowledge and good memories that will help me to succeed in the new scientific adventures to come.

University of California, Santa Cruz
William Randolph Hearst Foundation Scholar

Justus M. Wesschull
University of Cambridge
Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds Fellow
David and Fanny Luke Fellow

I had the good fortune to work in Tony Zador’s lab on the groundbreaking (and somewhat crazy) idea of using DNA sequencing to map brain connectivity. I could not have wished for a better project or mentor. Through the Watson School program, I forged countless friendships, and even had the opportunity to co-found the first CSHL Boat Club, which I am sure will carry on putting students into rowboats for years to come. All that remains to be said now is “Thank you. I won’t forget.”

University of the Pacific
Genentech Foundation Fellow
John and Amy Phelan Student

I started my time at CSHL with a focus on cancer genomics and ended with a passion for creating methods for data exploration. I am grateful for the flexibility and support the Watson School has given me to develop my interests wherever they lead. CSHL has been my home, my small town, my tight-knit little community of brilliant people. As I step out into the world, I’ll be taking with me a bit of the wisdom and memories this place has to offer.

Maria Nattestad
University of the Pacific

Iidmy research in Herví Fernández’s laboratory, where I had the opportunity to study—at the molecular level—a class of receptors that are fundamental for learning and memory. With this project, I was able to answer previously unsolved questions—the essence of being a scientist. Even as my journey at the Watson School ends here, I’m taking with me all the knowledge and good memories that will help me to succeed in the new scientific adventures to come.

Biondino Atienza
University of Cambridge
Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds Fellow

I joined Rob Martienssen’s lab to study epigenetics—“inheritance above the DNA sequence”—in plants. I revelled at the chance to develop and test my own ideas, and gradually became an independent scientist. Thanks to the flexibility of the Watson School program, I was able to collaborate and even “follow my nose” for exciting findings. As a result, I discovered two approaches to speed up crop breeding and hope to continue bettering the plant/biotech industry.