



HTRS 2021 Student Research Award Recipient



Elizabeth York

Emory University

Mentor: Glaivy Batsuli, MD

Project Title: "Investigating the Role of IgMs in the Immune Response to Factor VIII"

Elizabeth York is a senior pursuing a B.S. in Biology from Emory University and will be graduating in 2022. Post-graduation she is planning on applying to medical schools, specifically MD-PhD programs due to her interest in both research and clinical care. Elizabeth first became involved in hemostasis research during her

sophomore year when she joined the Batsuli lab in the Department of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology at Emory University and the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She began her work in the Batsuli lab by assisting a lab technician and learning essential lab techniques before tackling a more independent research project. Her independent project uses a hemophilia A mouse model to investigate the role of the first responding immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies in the late immune response to factor VIII, the glycoprotein that plays an essential role in the blood coagulation cascade. This project will lead to further understanding of the events involved in the initiation and propagation of the factor VIII immune response, the serious complication to the treatment of hemophilia A. With the support of the Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society Student Research Award (HTRS- SRA) and the guidance of her mentor Dr. Glaivy Batsuli, she hopes to gain a holistic understanding of the role of IgMs in the factor VIII immune response that will benefit the overall understanding of factor VIII's immunogenicity. She also hopes to submit the results she will present at a national conference for publishing to further share the knowledge gained.