

2022 HTRS Student Research Award



Yakun "Queena" Zhao, MS

University of Toledo,
College of Medicine and Life Sciences

Project Title

"Assessment of putative thrombomodulin risk variants for thrombosis using a zebrafish model."

Mentor

Jordan Shavit, MD, PhD

Queena Zhao is a rising second-year medical student at the University of Toledo, College of Medicine and Life Sciences. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience, and a Master of Science in Physiology from the University of Michigan. Before attending medical school, Queena worked in Dr. Shavit's lab at the University of Michigan, conducting a small molecule screen for novel treatments for hemophilia A and investigating unique features of tissue factor and thrombomodulin in vivo. With the support of the HTRS 2022 Student Research Award, Queena will return to the Shavit Lab to continue her work verifying thrombomodulin (THBD) mutations identified through genome-wide association studies. Since THBD has been implicated in pathologies involving thrombosis and sepsis, she hopes her work can help determine which mutations in THBD are truly causative and tailor treatments to each individual.