MD/PhD Students Represent UConn Health at National MD/PhD Conference

The UConn MD/PhD Program was well represented at the 31st Annual National MD/PhD Student Conference on July 15-17th, 2016 in Keystone, Colorado. This conference brings together MD/PhD students, faculty, and alumni from over 60 academic institutions. Two students in the program, Joseph Ryan and Albert Yu, attended this year and presented their research. The three day event featured prominent investigators and physician-scientists as keynote speakers, in addition to student speakers, poster sessions, breakout groups focusing on MD/PhD career enhancement and networking, as well as outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking. “It was great to see MD/PhD students come together as many people here will be future colleagues and potential collaborators,” explained Albert.

Joe presented a talk discussing an approach to improving combination cancer immunotherapy, and Albert’s poster presentation focused on his research investigating TRPM2, an ion channel expressed on immune cells that mediate recovery after heart attack. In addition to presenting their work, students were able to learn about the research being performed by other MD/PhD students across the country. Students also met with former MD/PhD students, MD/PhD junior faculty, and residency program directors to learn how to navigate the path to becoming an established physician-scientist.

View of the mountains from Lakeside Village at the Keystone Resort.
Albert Yu (right) presents his research during the poster session at the 2016 MD/PhD National Student Conference at Keystone, CO.

Joe Ryan discusses his research during the student oral presentations at the 2016 MD/PhD National Student Conference at Keystone, CO.