

MEGAN SHIEH

Advice

If you are really interested into getting into research, don't hesitate! Check out the research being done, and contact the professor ASAP, letting them know of your interest and any experience you have. Even if you feel like you don't have enough experience, you never know-- my biggest regret is not starting sooner.

Current Research

Defensins make up a large family of genes and have been identified in numerous organisms. This gene family plays a vital role in host immunity. I used bioinformatic tools to identify the defensin family in chia, a plant of growing interest due to its nutritional benefits. Understanding these gene families can potentially improve chia breeding practices. I will continue looking at other families of immunity-related genes in chia. I am also involved with Salmonella, a bacteria that has been highly implicated in foodborne illness. Risk of Salmonella-caused foodborne illness is reduced through cooking. However, Salmonella isn't considered a significant risk in raw ready-to-eat seafood products (e.g., sushi). I am writing a literature review on the risk of Salmonella in raw, ready-to-eat seafood products.



Involvements

- Food Science and Nutrition Student Association (Undergraduate Liaison)
- Food Science College Bowl
- Future Pharmacists Club

Awards & Distinctions

- Presidential Scholarship
- Provost List

Conferences

- Student Scholar Symposium