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GSA Travel Assistance Award



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Dear Donor,

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your contributions to my travel award. This scholarship enabled me to attend the 2023 Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition (CCCE), where I was able to successfully present my research, reconnect with colleagues, and network with high standing researchers in my field from across Canada, and indeed, the world. This trip would not have been feasible without your contributions.



Who am I?...

I am a 5th year PhD candidate in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology here at McMaster University, studying under the supervision of Professor David J. H. Emslie. My research focuses on the synthesis and study of compounds bearing unusual or never-before-seen interactions of the actinide elements with so-called "soft" donor ligands. Outside of the research lab, I enjoy playing softball on the departmental GSA league team, fencing, and participating in departmental outreach initiatives.

My accomplishments...

Throughout my academic tenure, I have had the privilege of earning many accomplishments. Academically, I have succeeded in publishing three peer-reviewed manuscripts to date (with a few more to come in the coming year or two), I was the recipient of various awards including the Departmental Colloquium Presentation Award, the 2022 Impact Award (for a very high impact publication), the Faculty of Science Pre-eminent Scientific Research Presenter Award, Ontario Graduate Student Scholarship (OGS) and the Best Oral Presentation Prize at the 2022 Inorganic Discussion Weekend (IDW) conference. Additionally, I was part of a graduate student team who spearheaded the department's first equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) committee.

My aspirations...

Being in my 5th year of PhD studies, I am nearing the end of my academic tenure at McMaster, where I have studied for the past 9 years (undergraduate degree included). I thoroughly enjoy the thrill of research and will be looking to secure a postdoctoral research position at a premier institution for heavy element chemistry in order to further my expertise in this exciting field. In the long term, I hope to develop a career in academic research as a professor, not only to push the very borders of our knowledge as human beings, but also to train the next generation of brilliant researchers and thinkers.

Kind regards,

Novan André George Gray