

The Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) was held November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at Northern Kentucky University (NKU). The meeting had 650 registrants including Kentucky Junior Academy of Science members as well as college undergraduates, graduate students, professors, and scientists from industry who are members of the Kentucky Academy of Science. The meeting featured scientific lectures, exhibits, a Career Fair, workshops, and trips to two University field stations and to the Newport Aquarium. Scientific research reports were given at sessions of each of the 18 sections of the KAS.

Men Tran (Mia) a NKU senior and UREP participant gave her research presentation in the Cellular and Molecular Biology Section. She writes "I've been to KAS meetings before, but this time I got to present my project from Wood Hudson Cancer Lab for the first time. I had the opportunity to share my exciting breast cancer research with the audience and also learned from other people's works." The title of her project was Investigating the Role of Reactive Oxygen Species Scavengers in Breast Cancer Tumorigenesis.

Susan Sterling, a junior from the University of Cincinnati and a UREP participant, gave her presentation in the Physiology and Biochemistry section. Susan remarked how everyone was so passionate about their topic and equally as passionate about learning from each other. She writes "I had a few students, and several professors approach me during my poster presentation. They were all engaged with what I had to say and asked relevant questions. While most of them had some familiarity with biochemistry, not all of them had experience with the topic I was presenting. Still, they seemed interested in my research and listened to my explanations. I enjoyed getting to witness other students and academics in KAS discuss their work with one another in a less structured environment that gave them more freedom to truly share their experiences." Posters and oral talks

were judged by university professors from academic institutions across the Commonwealth.

Susan's presentation entitled Phosphoserine Phosphatase and Malignant Transformation in Human Breast Tissues earned more than 25 points for excellent design and execution of the research project. It received special recognition and was ranked a "Thoroughbred." We congratulate Mia and Susan for their hard work and research accomplishments.

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## GROW NKY's College Career Connections Initiative



On Friday November 10<sup>th</sup> Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory participated in Northern Kentucky's Chamber of Commerce College-Career Connections event, "Life Sciences Career Discovery" at Thomas More University. Dr. Erik A. Bey, Senior Staff Scientist at Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory was in attendance representing the Lab. Dr. Bey had an opportunity to hand out information and speak to several Thomas More students who were potentially interested cancer research studies in the Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory Undergraduate Research Education Program (UREP). According to the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Life Sciences is one of Northern Kentucky's primary industry sectors, with 30% employment growth projected between 2020-2025. The GROW NKY's College Career Connections (C3) initiative is focused on retaining the college student population. Through purposeful events, college students, particularly those new to our region as well as first-

generation students, become passionate community members, and ultimately put down roots in the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati region.

The Undergraduate Research Education Program (UREP) has been ongoing at Wood Hudson Cancer Research Lab since 1982--that's over forty years! Over 360 STEM students have participated in UREP and many of these former students are now healthcare professionals, teachers or scientists serving our community. We thank the individuals and foundations who have supported this program.

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## Generous Grant from the R. C. Durr Foundation

*The R. C. Durr Foundation, Inc.*



*The heart of Northern Kentucky*

Once more, in 2024, undergraduate STEM students participating in the Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory Undergraduate Research Education Program (UREP) will benefit from the generosity of the R.C. Durr Foundation. A \$10,000 grant was received October 31<sup>st</sup> from the R. C. Durr Foundation to support 4 or 5 UREP students during 2024. Mr. R. C. Durr endowed the R. C. Durr Foundation, Inc. for charitable giving in perpetuity in Northern Kentucky upon his death. During his lifetime, most charitable organizations in Northern Kentucky, including Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory, benefited from his generosity, kindness, and compassion for others. Mr. Durr, who was known for hard work and perseverance, started his heavy construction company with one dump truck and a loader. The R. C. Durr Company became one of Kentucky's most successful heavy construction and highway contractors. Mr. Durr became one of the most respected community and business leaders. Previous grants to Wood Hudson Cancer Research Lab from the R. C. Durr Foundation have given many UREP students the opportunity for hands-on research experience as well as helped fund many other Lab projects.

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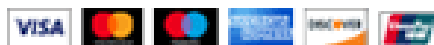
## November 28th is Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday, or the National Day of Giving, is coming up on November 28th, just as the holiday shopping season begins. Created in 2012 by New York's 92nd Street Y and the United Nations Foundation, Giving Day is observed in 80 countries worldwide as a way to show our spending can be matched by generosity. Non-profit organizations make use of the awareness Giving Tuesday provides to make the most impact in their causes and campaigns, and Wood Hudson Cancer Research Lab is no exception. The simplest way to give is to donate money to an organization or cause you care about, but volunteering your time or donating goods can also be valuable as an experience for those who want to give more. Statistics say that 28% of Giving Tuesday participants give money, 37% give time and goods, and 35% do both. Most participants enjoy being a part of something bigger than themselves, and with the wide reach of Giving Tuesday on social media platforms and the growing involvement of young people, this event of generosity promises to keep getting better, with the help of donors like all of us.



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