

I have just completed the coursework for a B.A. in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry. Since June 1997, I have worked with Dr. Jing Li on a project that involved designing and analyzing metal-based coordination networks. When I first joined her research group I was a medical technology major, however the exposure to chemistry that I received in her lab and the guidance and inspiration provided by Dr. Li convinced me to change my major to chemistry. Being part of Dr. Li's research group is like being in an extremely energetic and stimulating environment. I have learned so much from Dr. Li and the work that I have done, not just about chemistry but also about what it takes to be a scientist. I have had many opportunities to expand my experience as a "real" scientist and I owe them all to Dr. Li. For instance, I presented my research at several meetings alongside many great scientists. In doing so, I improved my communication skills, learned about the process of getting research published, and had a chance to travel to various places. One of those includes Beijing, China. Through an international program, I traveled to China this past summer and participated in a research project at the University of Beijing. This was an unforgettable experience and I doubt that many undergrads at other universities are given such opportunities. At this moment I am going through the process of interviewing for entrance into a MD/Ph.D. program. Each time I go to an interview, I come across doctors in medicine and other areas of science that are impressed with the amount of scientific exposure that I have. I have all of that experience because I was fortunate enough to work for an amazing woman, Dr. Li.