

in2science^{UK} 2014

This year the BSGCT funded 4 students through the in2scienceUK placements programme. In2scienceUK enables AS-level science students from low income backgrounds to participate in paid internships in research labs during the summer. The aim is to support these students progress to top Universities. On the programme students learn a variety of research methods and techniques, undertake wider reading around their subjects and work alongside practicing research scientists.

In2scienceUK founder said of this year's scheme *"This is our most successful year yet placing over 100 students into research groups. The quality of the projects the students were able to participate in were outstanding'. I would like to say Thank you to both the BSGCT for their generous sponsorship enabling us to place many more young people into research groups and to the scientists for being excellent hosts'.*

In2science coordinator Angela Barrett said of this year's scheme *"It has been a privilege to visit our in2scienceUK students on their summer placements. I have been amazed at the variety of placements I've seen, and how the students have been immersed in cutting-edge science, I was so impressed by students' enthusiasm and energy to learn, and by their supervisors' generosity and patience."*

Case Study: Department of Gene Therapy, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London



Photo: Cairo working on a presentation about her placement

Supervisor: Professor Uta Griesenbach

Group leader: Professor Eric Alton

Student: Cairo Alexandria Williams (Woodhouse College)

Cairo spent two weeks in the Department of Gene Therapy at Imperial College London. This group focusses on searching for novel gene therapy-based treatments for cystic fibrosis. Cairo worked with cell culture models, and observed work with mouse models as well as helping with dissections. She also visited a cystic fibrosis out-patient clinic at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

From Uta:

“During the two weeks in our Department I wanted Cairo to experience a whole range of activities related to translational research. She performed experiments, attended out-patient clinics and was even involved in a public engagement outreach activity. From day one it was evident that Cairo was incredibly enthusiastic and eager to learn. She is very mature for her age and had the confidence to approach and talk to junior and senior members of the team alike. Cairo is very bright and the entire team was truly impressed by her ability to absorb information and adapt to an entirely new environment. I hope that Cairo will decide to pursue a career in science and stay in touch to allow me to follow her progress at University.”

**Case Study: Cardiovascular Biology and Medicine, Rayne Institute,
Division of Medicine, UCL**

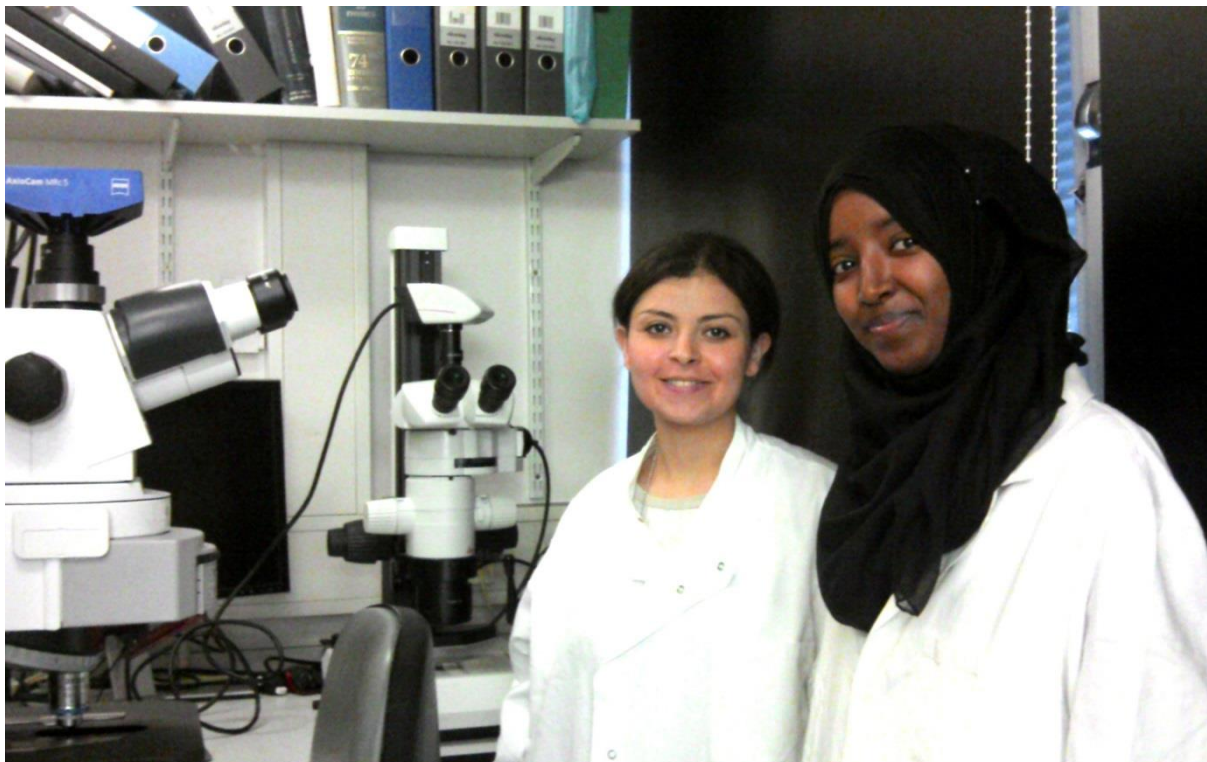


Photo: Sahra and Marwa

Supervisor: Dr Marwa Mahmoud

Group leader: Professor Ian Zachary

Student: Sahra Adan (Chobham Academy)

Sahra spent two weeks in the Cardiovascular Biology and Medicine group at UCL's Division of Medicine, under the supervision of Dr Marwa Mahmoud. Sahra learnt about genotyping, immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescent staining of tissue sections.

From Sahra:

"During my in2science placement at UCL with Marwa I was given the opportunity to see what it would be like working as a research scientist, which I found extremely fascinating. I was given an insight in to what it was like working in a lab and using special equipment that I wouldn't be able to use in sixth form. I was really inspired by what I was taught by Marwa, I even considered becoming a research scientist after my lab placement ended. During the two week placement I was taught how to do PCR which I found really useful as I shall be studying it in my A2 biology course this year - and now that I have this experience of doing it first-hand it has really given me an advantage. Furthermore, I was given brilliant advice about University by my supervisor - and for this I am really grateful. I would like to thank my sponsors, my supervisor Marwa, Professor Ian Zachary, in2science organisers Angela and Rebecca, as without them I would not have had an amazing experience like this."

From Marwa:

"Sahra was a very good student, very enthusiastic and quick to understand the different techniques we did. It was nice supervising her and getting to see science through her eyes, like how something as simple as loading an agarose gel was interesting for her."