

MRU Represents at the CCCE 2022



(L to R): Sahara Smith, Michael de los Santos, Tejas Gill, Dr. Jeella Acedo, Dr. Brett McCollum, Godween Cesaire, Dr. Nathan Ackroyd, Lacey Gibson, Karen Ho, Seyedyousef Mahdavian, Dr. Nausheen Sadiq, and Catharina Venter.

The Mount Royal University Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) sponsored 10 undergraduate students to participate in the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition (CCCE) last June 13-17, 2022 at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre.

Several MRU delegates (faculty and undergraduate students) presented in various symposia including the Chemical Education, Biological and Medicinal Chemistry, and Analytical Chemistry symposia. MRU students Sahara Smith and Catharina Venter with Karen Ho as supervisor won first place in the poster competition for the Chemical Education division.

Here are some excerpts from the feedback provided by our students.

“Attending the CCCE has been one of the highlights of my year. Having just recently graduated, this was the first time that I felt like I was part of a larger chemistry community.” - Sahara Smith (BSc Chemistry)

“CCCE 2022 allowed me to learn a lot about conducting and presenting research. Attending this conference contributed to my learning by exposing me to new methodologies relevant to qualitative research, as well as by allowing me to observe the habits of very good presenters across the symposia.” - Tejas Gill (BSc Health Science)

“I had the opportunity to learn, gain valuable experience, and network with like-minded individuals in my field of interest.” - Catharina Venter (BSc Chemistry)

“Besides gaining extra knowledge and fulfilling my curiosity, something else that I wanted to get out of this conference was learning how to present in front of an audience. I am hoping that going forward, I could apply these presentation skills to some of my courses in the future, and when I pursue my graduate studies.” - Godween Cesaire (BSc Chemistry)

“I really felt that my skills as a researcher grew as well as my connections with other scientists..” - Lacey Gibson (BSc Psychology, Biology Minor)

“Choosing the appropriate field and branch of chemistry for my future education and career was one of the challenges that I have experienced in the last couple of semesters. I wasn't sure enough what is my favorite field in chemistry. CCCE provided an important opportunity for me to meet different chemists and listen to their talks, and to familiarize myself with all the different chemistry topics and fields. I figured that I'm more interested in environmental, analytical chemistry.” - Seyedyousef Mahdavian (BSc Chemistry)

Informal conversations suggest that the experience addressed several characteristics of a High Quality, High Impact Practice (Kuh, 2013), including: (1) meaningful interactions amongst students and between faculty and students about substantive matters; (2) structured opportunity to reflect and integrate learning; and (3) public demonstration of competence. The Department of Chemistry and Physics thanks the FST for the support provided to the student conference awardees who found the experience enriching, adding value to their education.