Amber Habowski, a third year doctoral student in professor Marian Waterman’s lab, received a School of Medicine Professional Development Supplement allowing her to train with Dr. Hans Clevers’ lab in January 2017. Dr. Clevers is a world renowned molecular genetics professor at the Hubrecht Institute in the Netherlands. Clevers’ lab was the first to identify stem cells in the intestine and has since pioneered new methods to culture mini intestinal organoids from these stem cells.

Ms. Habowski spent two weeks training in the Clevers lab acquiring the skills necessary to grow these cultures. Since returning she has started her own patient-derived cultures and is continuing with her thesis work using this model system.

The focus of Ms. Habowski’s thesis is understanding the complex system of RNA processing, specifically splicing and polyadenylation, in colon cancer and the role that is played by Wnt signaling.

Ms. Habowski is currently an NSF GRFP fellow and was previously a trainee on the Cancer Biology and Therapeutics T32 training grant. She is a student in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics.

For more information about Dr. Clevers’ lab, visit:

https://www.hubrecht.eu/onderzoekers/clevers-group/