

## *Ph.D. Student Feature*

### *Elyse Van Spyk*



Ph.D. Candidate Elyse Van Spyk has been awarded a prestigious Roche ARCS Foundation Scholar Award. The ARCS Foundation is a nonprofit organization with the central goal of providing support for high-achieving scientific scholars and researchers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Ms. Van Spyk will be honored at the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) awards event this month. In 2014, she received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRPF) fellowship in support of her research.

Ms. Van Spyk's talk at the 2015 Gordon Research Seminar on Epithelial Differentiation & Keratinization in Maine and upcoming poster presentation are garnering attention. Her poster entitled, "Time-restricted feeding uncouples the circadian clock and the cell cycle of epidermal stem cells, affects the epidermal transcriptome, and alters the sensitivity to UVB-induced DNA damage", will be presented at the Society for Investigative Dermatology 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona in May. Her research explores the relationship between the circadian clock and skin biology. Her findings suggest that the clock and non-traditional modulators of skin function, such as time of feeding, may contribute to skin aging and skin cancer.

Ms. Van Spyk is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of study in the Department of Biological Chemistry, and she is advised by Dr. Bogi Andersen. Congratulations Elyse!