

**Mia C. DeFino**



**High School:** Riverside University High School

**SMART Team Project:** Team Anthrax- our mentor was Jeff Anderson

**College:** University of Wisconsin- Madison

**Major:** Biochemistry and Psychology

**Current career plans:** I am currently beginning my third year at the University of Washington Department of Pharmacology PhD program. My thesis work focuses on G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) structure, function and regulation in disease in the lab of Dr. Chris Hague.

**Impact of the SMART Teams on me:** Being on one of the first SMART teams taught me how to build connections with researchers across different fields.

After interacting with different researchers and reading many scientific papers I wanted to do more research as an undergraduate.

**Favorite memory of SMART Teams:** My favorite memory of being on a SMART team was learning that the model we designed was going to be presented to Congress as part of the Bioterrorism council meeting on Anthrax.

I believe this is an extremely beneficial program and allows students to have earlier access to real-life research experience.