



**Singapore
Affiliate**

SINGAPORE

Gayathry Morvil, winner of the ISPE Singapore Student Poster Competition shares her memorable experience at the ISPE Annual Meeting

When I was offered a chance to participate in the student poster competition for projects in the field of pharmaceutical industry, I did not have the slightest clue on what was in store for me. On the day of the local competition in Singapore, I presented my poster competing against undergraduate and PhD students. As a high school student standing up against more well versed and sophisticated projects, my hopes were low. Nevertheless, I embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly. Thus the declaration of me as the winner was equally as shocking as it was delightful. Then when it dawned upon me that the prize was a fully paid trip to San Francisco to present the poster, I was utterly overwhelmed. I set off open minded to attend the international final held during the 2012 ISPE Annual Meeting from 11–14 November in San Francisco.

The half day journey was exhausting and I set foot into the United States for the first time on 10 November. The next day, I set off to the conference venue for the young professional's luncheon, which served as an excellent platform for networking. We then headed down the poster set up area where I got to meet all the participants. This was one of the memorable highlights of my trip. Getting to meet so many different students with very impressive projects at a single location was rewarding. Chapter presidents shared advice, problems and even solutions. Being able to be a part of such a discussion was wholly enriching.

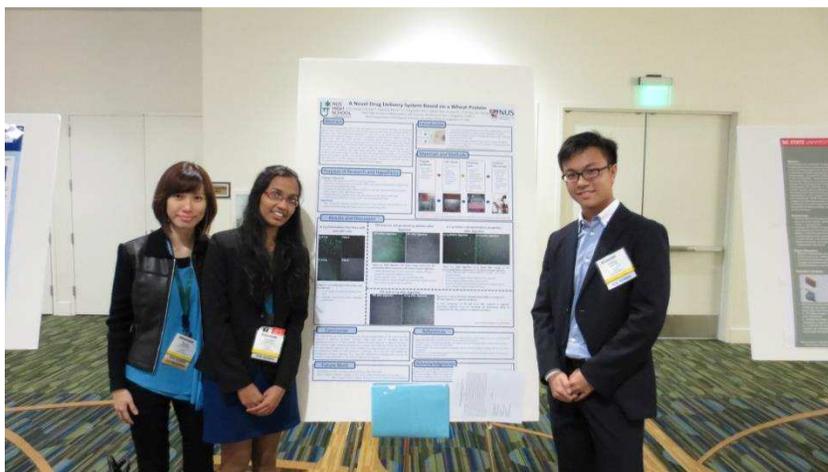
The next day, I attended the Membership Luncheon and Awards ceremony where together with the student poster competition results, other highly prestigious awards were also given out. Kerri Killen from Stevens Institute of Technology and Shyamala Pillai from New Jersey Institute of technology won the undergraduate and graduate prizes respectively. Being a part of such a prestigious event may have been the last I had expected to dawn my 18 years of life. Needless to say, each and every moment I spent at ISPE has laid out for me the largest stepping stone from high school to the window of the pharmaceutical industry. It gave me a great opportunity to network with professionals, students and mentors at a very critical stance of my life, where every next step I took would lead to a completely different destination.

I may not have been able to utilize this great opportunity fully as many others would have. This would have been a splendid chance for those looking for a profession in the pharmaceutical industry, and for a mere 18 year old like me, it was a chance to explore the field. Thus I would strongly encourage every student, high school, undergraduate and graduate, who is interested in the field to participate in the poster competition. You would never know when luck walks your way, like it did for me.

I would like to whole heartedly thank, Professor Kim Chu Young and Sathya Dev, my mentor and co-mentor respectively and Andrew Chia, my partner who has worked alongside me throughout the whole project. I would also like to thank Kathryn for painstakingly planning every single part of my trip, making it extremely comfortable and memorable. Finally I would like to thank ISPE for this great opportunity and I hope yet another lucky individual can get to experience it.



Prize Giving with Mr Gearoid Cronin, Chairman of the ISPE Singapore Affiliate



In San Francisco at the ISPE Annual Meeting 2012