

**MESSAGE FROM SYCL DOMESTIC TRAVEL GRANT WINNER**  
***Julia Drees***

My name is Julia Drees and I am a postdoctoral fellow in clinical chemistry at the University of California at San Francisco.

I am very grateful to the Van Slyke Foundation for funding the SYCL domestic travel grants. I am a recipient of one of the travel grants to attend the 2008 AACC annual meeting, which is a great opportunity to participate in many different types of talks where I expect to learn about new developments and technologies in the field.

I will also be presenting my research at a poster session at the meeting and I am looking forward to discussing my work with other clinical chemists.

Attending this meeting is a great way to get ideas for your project and to gain experience presenting and communicating about your research. Of course I'll also be looking at other people's posters and sharing ideas about their research.

Meeting new colleagues is a large part of the AACC annual meeting and the connections I build this week will last throughout my career. In addition, I hope that these connections will lead to future research collaborations and maybe even future career opportunities!

All in all, the SYCL travel grant and the AACC annual meeting are a great asset to my career development. Again, many thanks to the AACC Van Slyke Foundation and to the SYCL Committee for making this opportunity available to me and other SYCL members as well.