

SUCCESS STORY



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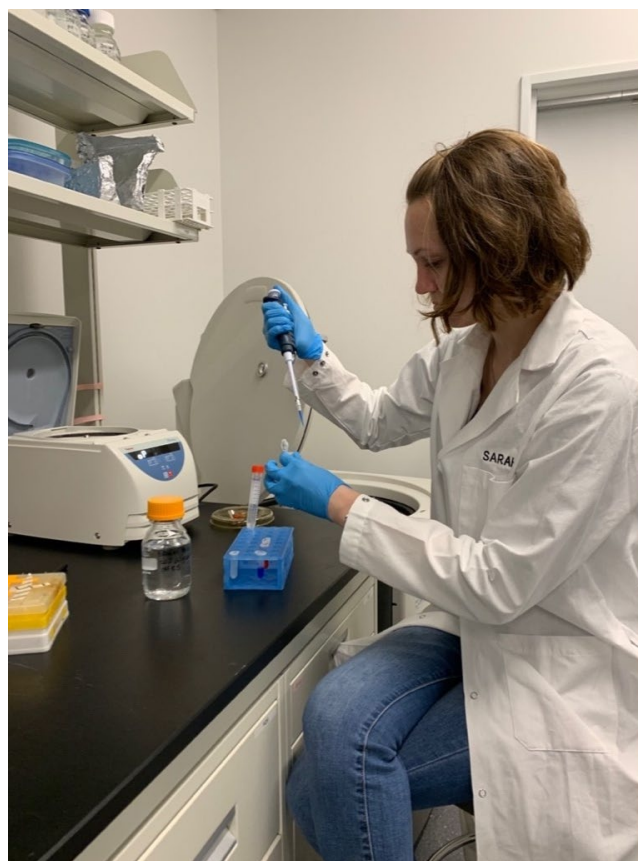


www.allosbioscience.com

Allos Bioscience is a start-up from the University of Lethbridge that develops biosensors that detect carbohydrates. These biosensors are used in academic research and have both agricultural and human health applications. As a relatively new start-up, having student interns as part of their workforce was key to advancement of their product.

SarahAnn Walker was one of those students. Starting her studies at the University of Lethbridge during the pandemic, SarahAnn's laboratories consisted of watching videos of someone else doing the assigned work for her. It was not the hands-on experience she was hoping for, and she found online learning quite isolating: "You go to university excited to meet new groups of people and instead you're stuck in your bedroom."

When the opportunity to work at Allos Bioscience presented itself, SarahAnn jumped at it. "[Working at Allos] gave me the ability to progress through my undergrad while I couldn't actually 'do' classes. It gave me the knowledge and experience I needed and reminded me of my love for science." She learned how to create biosensors and test them over different ranges. Not only did this co-op experience give SarahAnn the learning opportunities she was seeking, it also provided her with an environment in which she enjoyed her work, had supervisors willing to answer her questions, and surrounded her with people who were willing to teach her science *in person*.



SarahAnn in the Allos Lab

Dr. Harland Brandon, CEO of Allos Bioscience, notes that SarahAnn has been a shining light during her time at Allos. “SarahAnn was a set of hands that did what we needed to do, and having her with Allos for a longer period enabled her to also teach others – that is not a second year undergrad experience you normally get!”

WIL funding has been crucial for Allos – extra hands and financial assistance are always welcome at start-ups, but it is not just about hiring students to help out. Being able to monetarily incentivize an internship gives an indication of seriousness on the part of the company and conveys a sense of responsibility to the student, helping the student take ownership of their work, and ultimately, their future at the company after graduation.

Looking toward the future, SarahAnn reflects that she had “assumed she would head into a research-based career” but is now “excited about the creativity that comes with inventing things.” Taking all she has learned during her time at Allos, she knows her options are many.

As for what’s next for Allos Bioscience, Dr. Brandon is enthusiastic that the timeline for product launch has been moved up. Allos is also working on achieving results using a plate reader instead of a fluorimeter, meaning that their biosensor products will be available to a much wider user group. The true strength of Allos is the process it uses to make biosensors as it can result in custom-made biosensors for a wide variety of applications and they look forward to using science and their technology to solve problems present in the world. Let’s all do a little bit of good, shall we?

WIL VOUCHER

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