

SUCCESS STORY



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futurefields.io



(Left): Team member headshot of new Future Fielder, Ashley Pillay. (Right): Ashley and other Future Fields female scientists posing for a group photo for International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2023.

Future Fields is a fly biotechnology company based in Edmonton, Canada. Its biomanufacturing platform, the EntoEngine™, is the first synthetic biology system in the world to use fruit flies for recombinant protein production. Powered by people and fly by design, Future Fields equips industries with the biomolecular agents they need to sustainably, ethically, and economically conduct great science.

As of 2023, Future Fields' lab has been Green-certified by My Green Lab. Future Fields is also a proud business member of 1% for the Planet, United Nations Global Compact, and the My Green Lab ambassador network. Sustainability is built within the ethos of the company and Future Fields continues to improve its operations to align with its environmental and social mission.

“When I was looking for internships, I came across Future Fields’ website and saw that their first value was to ‘Act on the climate crisis.’ This really resonated with me and drove me to apply,” says Ashley Pillay, who interned with Future Fields during the Winter 2023 term as a Protein Purification Technician.

Sustainability is integral to its mission, and Jalene Anderson-Baron, co-founder and COO, says that it is important to hire people who understand the global need for climate action.

“There is extremely skilled talent coming out of our post-secondary institutions in Alberta. To help us refine our search for talent, we specifically look for people who share our values,” says Jalene.

The opportunity to have Ashley join Future Fields would not have been possible without BioAlberta’s WIL funding. During Ashley’s WIL internship, she was able to learn new laboratory techniques and work on optimizing purification processes for different recombinant proteins, including the world’s first human and bovine growth factors derived from fruit flies. As part of her position, Ashley learned about column purification, performed different assays such as a Western Blot and used the Jess to further analyze results, and participated in team discussions concerning further process development of proteins.

To summarize her experience, Ashley shares that:

“WIL funding has given me the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience working and being involved with research at Future Fields. The next steps of my academic career includes continuing to work in the biotechnology industry. I feel confident that I will be able to apply the skills I’ve learned throughout my internship in the biotechnology field, and to pursue further education.

My internship experience at Future Fields has allowed me to undergo an incredible journey of learning valuable skills that I can apply in the future, as well as providing me with many opportunities to expand my knowledge and skills in other areas. I look forward to continuing working at Future Fields!”

Future Fields is also excited to share that, following her internship, Ashley will be joining the team full-time in May 2023 as a Quality Control Assistant, continuing her career in biotechnology and sustainable recombinant protein production.

Learn More

Future Fields is a fly biotechnology company based in Edmonton, Canada. Founded in 2018, Future Fields is on a mission to change how we do science for humanity and the planet. Our biomanufacturing platform, the EntoEngine™, is the first synthetic biology system in the world to use fruit flies for recombinant protein production. Powered by people and fly by design, we’re equipping industries with the biomolecular tools they need to sustainably, ethically, and economically conduct great science.

Future Fields is a proud business member of 1% for the Planet, a global organization that accelerates smart environmental giving. We are also a part of the United Nations Global Compact initiative, committing to aligning strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption, and taking actions that advance societal goals. As of 2023, our lab has also been Green-certified by My Green Lab.

Learn more about how we’re transforming science for the future at futurefields.io.

