SUCCESS STORY
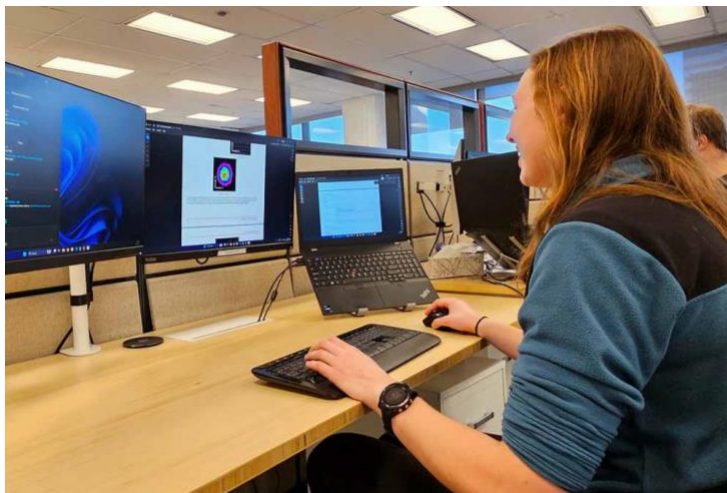

www.bioalberta.com   www.pulsemedica.com

"Tapping into the talent and skills of the future workforce while providing meaningful learning experiences to interns is a win-win for everyone and made much easier with the support from programs like those facilitated by BioAlberta in partnership with the Government of Alberta."

PulseMedica is an Edmonton-based medical device start-up developing revolutionary technologies to image and treat vitreoretinal eye disease. The platform solution integrates cutting-edge technology, including machine learning (ML), advanced 3D imaging systems, and a precise femtosecond laser. These technologies have the potential to provide more accurate disease screening and diagnosis while introducing a safe, effective, and non-invasive image-guided treatment procedure.

PulseMedica is investing in future technology innovators and gaining fresh perspectives and ideas by hiring early career professionals through internship and co-op opportunities. These placements not only provide crucial real-world working experience and a source of income for interns, but also provide a valuable talent pipeline for recruitment. These experiences also allow PulseMedica to assess the alignment of skills and cultural fit to consider interns and co-op students for future full-time employment.

In addition, interns play a crucial role in the professional development and leadership growth of PulseMedica's staff. When team members can mentor interns, they can practice and refine skills like coaching, communication, and delegation. Guiding interns through tasks and projects instills a sense of responsibility and accountability among the team, improving their ability to lead, supervise and cultivate a collaborative and supportive work environment.

Stephine Yearley working at PulseMedica.

Stephine Yearley, who is going into her 5th year of the Computer Engineering Co-op program at the University of Alberta,

applied to be a Software Developer Intern at PulseMedica because she knows "how meaningful developing technology with the aim of improving people's quality of life can be." Stephine worked on developing software interfaces used to communicate with various third-party devices, allowing them to be integrated into larger systems. Stephine has also had the opportunity to help develop a command line tool to control these systems. WIL funding helped PulseMedica gain access to top-tier talent, increasing productivity at the company.

The staff at PulseMedica noted that Stephine played a vital role in their team by seamlessly integrating into their daily operations, effectively functioning as a full-time team member. One of the key areas where Stephine made a significant impact is in the development and debugging of software interfaces for controlling various hardware components.

The team noted Stephine's "remarkable attention to detail," "meticulous mindset" and "unwavering enthusiasm" in both her work and learning. As a result of Stephine's dedication to adopting new industry standards, PulseMedica's codebase has not only become more efficient but also remarkably easy to comprehend. This, in turn, ensures that the code is not only efficient to debug but also a joy to maintain. Stephine's work ethic and commitment to excellence have significantly contributed to the team's success, and PulseMedica is "grateful to have such a talented and dedicated intern on board."

Stephine leaves us with final thoughts "Detecting and treating diseases is inherently a rewarding pursuit. This purpose, coupled with the opportunity to control interesting devices like tunable lenses, motorized stages, and lasers, makes me excited to come to work. My biggest takeaway from my time working with PulseMedica is gaining experience working on large and long-living software projects as a team. It's the kind of experience that can't be acquired through coursework. There may be 'no silver bullet' in software development, but I'm confident the strategies I've learned during this work term will help me write robust code and design scalable systems." We can't wait to see what's next for Stephine!

PulseMedica on the importance of interns:

Interns open new avenues for PulseMedica to tackle short-term projects while also assisting in workload management, which helps balance workload demands. Their diverse backgrounds and generational perspectives provide new ideas to the existing team and, in turn, help foster a culture of knowledge-sharing, respect, and inclusion across the company. Interns often bring fresh perspectives and emerging skills, which challenge the team to adapt and stay up to date, reinforcing a culture of humility, continuous learning and innovation.

Contact Jamie at jamie@bioalberta.com to learn how your company access WIL funding to hire an intern.