



Founders Week

Student of the Year - Emily Smith



EMILY M. SMITH

*University of Maryland Graduate School
Class of 2022*

Ms. Smith is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Program in Life Sciences in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology with a concentration in bacterial pathogenesis. She arrived at UMB in 2016 after graduating with a bachelor's degree in biology from James Madison University.

Ms. Smith works in the laboratory of Eileen Barry, PhD, in the University of Maryland School of Medicine's (UMSOM) Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health and developed strong research skills during her graduate work to complement her undergraduate and postbaccalaureate experiences. She has presented her work at international, national, local, and institutional conferences and has published manuscripts in top-tier journals. Ms. Smith also has led research collaborations pivotal to her work and served in laboratory mentoring and teaching roles for undergraduate, graduate, and medical students.

She has been active in the Graduate Student Association since 2017, first as a program representative, then vice president, and president from May 2020 to June 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. In that role, she advocated for students coping with ongoing issues involving health and safety, tele-education, transportation, and financial and academic support.

Committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), Ms. Smith led hands-on activities and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) career discussions for female high school students from underrepresented groups through opportunities at UMSOM. She also helped write

student policy documents on DEI and advocated for hiring a chief equity officer within the Graduate School and at the University level. She served on a student committee that met candidates for the UMB position and promoted the inclusion of a graduate student on the selection committee.

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