Have research experience? **CHECK ☑** **What’s next?!**

So now you have a research position and you are getting a hang of it...
What should I be thinking about now?!

**Authorship and Posters!**

A publication by Abbot et al.\(^1\) demonstrated that undergraduate and graduate students had limited understanding of authorship, the requirements needed for authorship, and the politics and funding needed for publication. Further, there is a gap between the students’ know-how in this process and the faculty’s deprioritizing the initiation of this process for students.

As such, if you plan to pursue research as your long-term career endeavors, the execution of publications, posters, and conference talks is key to building your professional reputation! Here are a few steps to engage in the authorship process:

1. **First, determine your expectations and goals!**
   - Do you want to (co-)author publications and/or a poster? Do you have time to do said goals? Which is most feasible to compete within your projected timeframe?

2. **Then, advocate for yourself!**
   - Start the conversation with your principal investigator (PI)/lab supervisor/director.
     - They are constantly juggling projects, grants, classes, and meetings. It is not intentional, but an undergraduate authorship may not be their first priority.
   - Establish your expectations with your PI/lab supervisor/director.
     - Understand that your expectations may or may not line up with them.
     - If your expectations are not being met, continue advocating for yourself or reconsider if that laboratory is a good fit for you.
   - If your expectations are met, create a detailed plan and timeline for your aims.
     - ***Also, make sure you establish a plan to ensure credit for your efforts even after you have moved on from your laboratory!***

3. **Learn more about the authorship process (on your own and with your PI/supervisor)!**
   - **Journals:**
     - Have your PI/supervisor point out specific journals in the field.
     - Each journal has specific manuscript guidelines, impact factors, and publication costs that are critical to the selection of a journal. Get familiar with them!
   - **Conferences:**
     - Research potential conferences in your field that you would like to present and attend!
     - These are great for sharing your findings and networking with people in your field of interest!
     - Consider also applying for travel grants for these conferences as travel and stay can get quite costly! Travel grants are available through your home institution or outside organizations.

*These preliminary steps are great for introducing the topic of authorship between you and your PI/supervisor. With their support, you will be well on your way to becoming a well-rounded researcher!*