Once I arrived to the San Diego convention center I began to realize the enormity that is the Experimental Biology Conference. The San Diego convention center is a very large center with multiple halls and a very large main hall. When I first arrived I went through the usual process of registering and receiving my items and conformation of presentation time. I had some time before was to present my poster and wanted to be able to get some education while I was here. I decided to wander around the main hall to look for other poster presentations currently in progress. It was amazing to see the sites where these posters were done, from Harvard, University of California-San Francisco, Mayo Clinic, which were all in the same boat as I. I was able to find some very interesting articles. When particularly caught my attention as it related to heart infections and I was able to have a very informative conversation concerning proper methods and the outcomes of his experiment. I learned there the importance of thoroughly researching your project prior to starting it so that you can have the most information to set up the best designed study.

After a while a seeing some posters it was my turn to present. I meet up at my station where my poster was already put up and saw Ian Malberg and Dr. Betty Herndon. I had some time to go through the poster with Dr. Herndon and she shoot off some mock questions to get me prepared to defend my work. Throughout the poster presentation we had multiple visitors with some very good questions. Most of our visitors were curious about our Bleomycin model because it was one they often used to induce pulmonary fibrosis for their experiments. One of our visitors had a discussion on the mechanism of
injury and was able to have a very meaningful conversation on steps we can take from this sport in our experiment to further it to find a cause of the fibrosis. Another visitor discussed our results and what may have caused some anomalies in our data and how we could explain those differences and how next time we can control for them. We had others who we just spoke to and were very interested on what we found. Most of them thought our research was great and thoroughly enjoyed viewing or very well put together poster. After our poster presentation was done I was able to have some more free time and I wasn’t about to waste it.

At Experiment Biology Conference they have multiple lectures given by the most prestigious researchers in their field. Compared to the other conferences I attended it is on a much more scientific (or bench level) than clinical (or bedside) research. At the UMKC SOM we are quite weak on this scientific research so I wanted to attend as many lectures as I could to help my fund of knowledge. I am considering going into cardiology and lucky for me I was able to find a lecture on a symposium on heart research led by one of the leading cardiologist from John Hopkins. The lecture was sampling amazing as it was simple (so I was able to understand) and looked at the future of research and sparked my mind on the many ideas for research I have. I was also able to attend three more lecture which were just as great.

Overall the conference was a great experience because it essentially helped changed the way I think about the world of medicine. It opened me up to be inquisitive and to always search for a better way of doing things. I feel like I’m becoming a true problem solving doctor.