

I am Melissa Schofield, and my goal is to obtain my Ph.D. in microbiology from the Tseng lab at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. After completing my Ph.D., I aspire to join a national or private laboratory as a microbiologist. While my major focus has been stress response systems, I am also familiar with and passionate about the study of bacterial biofilms, a major focus of the Tseng lab. I aspire to study stress responses with a special interest in bacterial biofilm formation. My work over the next year will investigate a relatively unknown role for the well-known stress response regulatory protein DnaJ in the human opportunistic pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. My research seeks to expand our knowledge of the interconnected stress response pathways possessed by bacteria.