

I attended the American Society of Mechanical Engineers-International Mechanical Engineers Conference and Exposition (ASME-IMECE) 2010 conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from November 12-18, to give both an oral and poster presentation on my work. I am a PhD student in Materials Science and work in the field of "Nanofluidic devices for cellular interrogation". This conference gave me a great platform to discuss related problems with scholars in the field of micro-fluid mechanics and mechanics of cells. The conference kick-started with a student mixer, which was an informal gathering of students from various universities mainly in the US and Canada, and a great way to start making contacts. The next day I had my poster presentation in a NSF sponsored symposium, which attracted quite a bit of audience and helped me interact with a lot of people. Throughout the conference I attended as many symposia as possible, and it was great to be exposed to a wealth of information in related fields at one single place. It enabled me to get in touch with a lot of people, some of them were leading scientists in their fields, and establish contacts with them by exchange of business cards. My oral presentation was on the last day of the conference, but there were quite a few people present in my session. The talk was well taken and appreciated.



In the evenings I took time off to explore the city of Vancouver (in spite of the persistent rain!). I was able to visit well known places like the Greenville island, and certain other locations within the city. I'm very thankful to the Office of International Programs for the international travel award, because of which I could participate in this great conference, which was also the first time I participated in an international event and travelled to another country. This is a great way to encourage research amongst students and I hope the trend continues!

Riju Singhal.