Women in Scientific Discovery or Medicine (WISDOM): Utilizing Interprofessional Mentorship to Promote Graduate Education
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INTRODUCTION
Women in Scientific Discovery or Medicine (WISDOM) was an organization founded in 2013 at Rosalind Franklin University of Science and Medicine (RFUMS). It is a mentorship program designed to inspire and encourage young women to pursue graduate education in science, technology, mathematics, engineering, and healthcare related fields. Through seminar series, campus tours, and mentor-mentee relationships, the undergraduate students at our partner institutions learn about a variety of graduate and professional programs. Created and organized by graduate students, it has grown to encompass over 60 members at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

PARTICIPATION
WISDOM is composed of an interprofessional team of students from every college or school at the university. These include: The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Chicago Medical School, Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, College of Pharmacy, and the College of Health Professions. The undergraduate student participants attend a private liberal arts college and are majoring in either biology or chemistry.

OUTREACH EVENTS
Career Seminar Series:
• “In the lab and off the bench: Satisfying science careers in the real world,” Stephanie K. Levi, Ph.D.
• “How I found pharmacy,” Brenda Marshall, RPh, MBA

Workshop Events:
• “Pursuing graduate education in the health sciences,” campus tour
• SciGirls role model training
• STEMapalooza Science Expo

Survey of attitude and perception towards careers and graduate education in STEM and health care. Survey participants were female undergraduate students majoring in STEM fields (n=19).

WISDOM members explain DNA base pairing by making double stranded bracelets at STEMapalooza.

Students tour the Dr. Scholl Feet First museum at RFUMS and learn about the field of podiatric medicine.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS
WISDOM has already begun to establish partnerships with local high schools and the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. In the next year we hope to expand our program to include K-12 health science outreach.

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