



# CONFERENCES

## Jack Fowler University of Wisconsin Award



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### *What does this award mean to you?*

This award emphasises the significance of my work. Being recognised on an international scale is very rewarding and helps to motivate me to keep fighting against cancer.

### *To whom would you like to dedicate your award?*

I would like to dedicate my award to my dear husband Michael, who believed in me and knew I was capable of more than I ever imagined. He has truly been my rock throughout graduate school.

### *What is your next challenge?*

My next challenge is to complete residency. I am in the end stages of my PhD degree, and I am preparing to graduate and begin the next step of my career. My residency starts in January 2023 and will present new and exciting challenges and opportunities for growth.

### *What are you proudest of in your career?*

My entire journey makes me proud. I came from a tiny island (St Lucia) in the Caribbean, and I have made it to the number one cancer hospital in the USA. That's something I could not have imagined in my wildest dreams. Being black and female also puts me in a very small minority of physicists, and I feel like I am helping to pave the way for more people who look like me to be able to pursue this career path.

### *If you hadn't been a scientist, what would you like to have been?*

I think in another life I would have been a movie director or producer. At nine years old I was orchestrating entire multi-act stage productions in my backyard with my friends and siblings, who were all younger than me. I wrote the scripts, led the rehearsals, and

directed the performances. In college, I did the same on a larger scale. I had an idea for a show and then I wrote, directed and organised the entire thing! Who knows, I may just pursue it one day.

***Did your parents encourage you in your career, or would they rather you had done something else?***

My parents were very supportive of my academic endeavours in general. They never swayed me or my siblings in one direction or another, they cheered us on and made sure we had what we needed to succeed.

***When do you think you will retire, and what would you like to do then?***

I want to retire from my career in the USA at a young enough age so that I can move back home to St Lucia and contribute something meaningful to cancer treatment on the island. Right now, the healthcare system requires an upgrade, and I intend to use my knowledge and experience from working and training in the USA to do just that. In addition, I hope to travel all over the world as I am a wanderer at heart.

