

Dear members of the James Hillier foundation,

"I am tenacious". I remember that my essay application 4 years ago began with those three words. When I got the call and was offered the scholarship, I experienced a level of felicity to this day I can't say I've experienced an equal to. It has been an amazing adventure since then. I would like to share a few of the highlights from the past few years with you in hopes to show what your appreciation and support developed. My accomplishments are simple and quite modest. However, I believe you will note their relevance to the principle beliefs underlying the James Hillier Scholarship.

I'm currently interning at Robert Bosch in Palo Alto, CA performing research on lithium battery technologies. Electrochemistry and energy research, even though they aren't my direct fields of study, have been an area of interest and extensive research for me in all of my Co-op experiences. In addition to working at Bosch, one of the most ethically responsible companies, I've had the pleasure to do lithium battery research in the University of Waterloo under Linda Nazar, one of the acclaimed members in the field of lithium energy storage research. Furthermore I've spent two terms at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa as well, here we were able to publish some of our results in Chemistry of Materials journal. You may find it here: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/cm202793j>

Lastly, I would like to share with you, in brief, what the scholarship has meant to me. Perhaps more than the monetary contribution, which has been extremely important, I believe the growth I experienced whilst preparing for the scholarship continues to play a significant role in my life right now and will play a major role for the foreseeable future. In retrospect, I can say that the experience enabled me to discover what I wanted to pursue and how I wanted to contribute my developing skills for the purpose of solving problems in the physical sciences. I believe my next challenges will involve taking technology from the lab to commercialization, to bridge the gap between research and useful tools. I've stayed true to my word that I would seek problems in sciences in hopes of solving problems pertinent to our generation. It is still my desire to seek problems and challenges in advancing sciences & technologies. For helping me figure out this purpose, and the joy this pursuit brings me, I am forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Abhinay Kondamreddy