

profiles of LEARNING

SADIYE RIEDER

Doctoral student makes the most of her School of Medicine experience

When Sadiye Rieder graduated from Hanover College in Indiana she was certain that she wanted to further her career and become a biomedical researcher. However, where she would study was not as clear because of one special circumstance.

“I was looking for a school that my husband and I could attend together,” said Sadiye Rieder, Ph.D., class of 2011. “He was pursuing a master’s in philosophy, while I had an interest in doctoral studies in biomedical sciences.”

The University of South Carolina was one of the schools where she and her husband were both accepted. Once she arrived on campus and began to mingle with faculty and students, she was reassured that they made the right decision. Rieder said the atmosphere was one that encouraged the exploration of new ideas and one where faculty mentorship was a key component of the program.

“Working in the labs of Drs. Prakash and Mitzi Nagarkatti was one of the most gratifying experiences of my education,” she said. “I was very fortunate to be a student under their guidance and tutelage. Not only did they help make sure I had the resources needed to succeed, but they were also instrumental in my success as a learner and future scientist.”

Rieder took full advantage of her experience by remaining involved in student activities as well as pursuing grant funding for her studies. She served as president of the Medical Graduate Student Association; a committee member on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Group, and a graduate student member of the USC School of Medicine Alumni Association board.

Many of Rieder’s research grants were funded by NIH, including her research in



the Nagarkattis’ lab on the therapeutic effects of resveratrol (found in red grapes and wine) on inflammation.

She received several awards and research grant funding, including the Morgan Newton Award, which is presented to doctoral students attending the University of South Carolina; the National Award NIH Predoctoral Grant; and the National Award for the Society of Toxicology Specialty Section of Biotechnology. She was also selected to travel extensively around the country to present her research at conferences and meetings on behalf of doctoral students at Carolina.

“Sadiye was one of the most driven and intelligent students I have ever taught in my lab,” said Mitzi Nagarkatti, Ph.D., a professor and chair of the pathology, microbiology and immunology department. “She is a natural leader whose inquisitive and intuitive character will certainly propel her career forward as a research scientist.”

Rieder landed her first postdoctoral job at the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases in Washington, D.C. There, she will work in the Cellular Immunology lab of Ethan Shevach, MD.

“When I graduated, I felt like I was leaving home,” she said.

Rieder’s story is just one of many students who credit their positive experience to the support of faculty, staff and alumni. If you have ideas or can offer your support to the School of Medicine’s programs, contact the Office of Development at 803-216-3314 or go to www.med.sc.edu. Your help in producing successful alumni like Sadiye is always welcome! ■