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Kip Proteins Promote Clostridioides difficile Growth in Bile Salts

Cheyenne Lee graduated with a BS in biotechnology from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke in May 2019. At UNCP, she worked with Dr. Conner Sandefur on characterizing the antimicrobial properties of Lumbee Tribe herbal teas under the NSF-COMPASS and NIH-RISE programs. Currently, she is a 4th year Ph. D. candidate in the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (MMG) program and has been an ARTDTP fellow at Emory University since 2021. Under the mentorship of Dr. Shonna McBride, Cheyenne's project focuses on characterizing *Clostridioides difficile* sporulation initiation and growth specifically through the activities of the KipOTIA proteins. Without the ability to form spores, *C. difficile* cannot be transmitted as efficiently through the environment to infect new hosts. Knowing this, Cheyenne's project focuses on understanding how *C. difficile* forms the spores that make it easily transmissible so that new targets for novel therapeutics to inhibit sporulation initiation may be uncovered.