I am a graduate student at Purdue University, studying organic chemistry. I want to share some of my recent research and talk about how I landed in this career path, going from an 'un-schooled' rural farm girl to a chemist, U.S. Army veteran, and nationally-ranked competitive athlete. My research focuses on design and synthesis of new antimicrobials for use as antibiotics, as well as development of new methods for making peptides. I hope to encourage others to pursue their ambitions regardless of background or believed aptitudes, as the world of science has a place for all types of people.

Miri is a PhD candidate in the Chemistry department at Purdue University in Professor Mark Lipton’s group. Alongside the PhD program, she is concurrently earning an MBA through Purdue Global, after which she plans to enter into the scientific consulting industry. Miri is also a veteran of the Iraq war and a member of Team USA’s world grappling team.