

The Coolest Thing

ALEXANDRA MCCUBBREY, a Ph.D. candidate in immunology and native of Ann Arbor, was first author of a study with Jeffrey Curtis, M.D., on how inhaled corticosteroids change the clearance of dead cells in the lungs, which was featured in “In this Issue” in the July 1 edition of the *Journal of Immunology*.

INTERVIEW BY WHITLEY HILL
PHOTO BY J. ADRIAN WYLIE

“

IN MY 6TH GRADE SCIENCE CLASS, we were looking through microscopes at pond scum, then drawing the creatures we saw. I remember being particularly fascinated by the cilia around the edges of a paramecium. Everyone else was way less enthusiastic, but I thought it was the coolest thing. That was when I first thought of science as a direction for my life.

“I love research; it’s like a fantastic logic puzzle. Your reactions have to be based in fact and evidence, but being creative and imaginative and seeing those logical leaps — not being afraid to think outside of what’s published and known — that’s how we discover new things. ”

—ALEXANDRA MCCUBBREY

