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Cytokinesis Defects in Budding Yeast

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Cytokinesis Defects in Budding Yeast

Budding yeast are a very good research organism, because they are very similar to humans in many ways. One of the problems with budding yeast is that there are many genes that are uncharacterized, and it is not known what their cellular function is or what their functional role is. One way to study gene function is to knock out the gene. The purpose of knocking genes out is because they are uncharacterized genes that have been identified in genomic screens as interacting with cytokinesis proteins. Cytokinesis is the division of a cell into two daughter cells. Our research lab is interested in cytokinesis, because cytokinesis defects can lead to polyploidy in the cell. This defect can lead to cancer or cell death. So far, our data shows that we have knocked out the genes, but we do not have enough data to say if we have gotten a cytokinesis defect.

Katherine is a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Rolla, majoring in Biological Sciences. On campus she is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and Helix. She is a participant in the UMR Opportunities for Undergraduate Research Experiences (OURE) Program. Off of campus she is a waitress at Applebee's. Katherine plans on pursuing a career in research after she graduates.