What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I work in the development of a major bioinformatics initiative called the Gene Ontology (GO), which is a collaborative effort to describe everything we know about gene products across species in an organized, hierarchical manner. Specifically, I am trying to represent metabolic processes in the GO, including the complex regulatory networks that affect how our bodies consume energy. This involves reading literature to understand the precise consensus definitions for metabolic processes, and then creating terms and defining relationships between terms in the ontology editing software Protege.

How did you find your internship?
I was familiar with the Jackson Lab from living in Maine.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I am encouraged to take my project in any direction that interests me, and I get to spend my summer on beautiful Mount Desert Island.

What do you find challenging?
Since this is the first time regulation has been modeled in the GO framework, there is a lot of trial and error involved to figure out what works, which can be frustrating at times.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Keep in mind the application deadline is in early February, so plan accordingly.

About the Organization
The Jackson Laboratory
Bar Harbor, ME

The Jackson Laboratory is an independent, nonprofit organization focusing on mammalian genetics research to advance human health. Our mission is to discover precise genomic solutions for disease and empower the global biomedical community in the shared quest to improve human health.