

# Virtual Work Experience

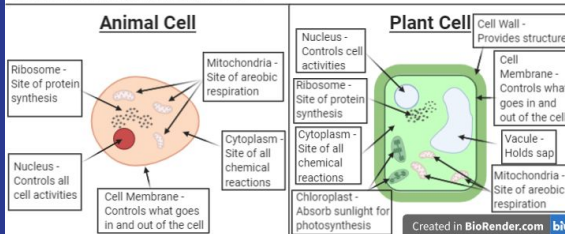
## What did we do?

We had multiple interesting Q and A sessions with different researchers and students at the life sciences and medical parts of the university. We also completed many different tasks on a multitude of different subjects such as GMO crops, using biorender and working on our personal statements.

## Some of the work I did.

### Difference between animal and plant cells

There aren't many differences between animal and plant cells as they share quite a lot of organelles such as nucleus, cytoplasm, ribosomes, mitochondria and the cell membrane. However the plant has a few extra organelles than the animal cell. The plant cell has the cell wall, the vacuole and the cytoplasm. It has these extra organelles as it has a different way of getting energy as it needs to make its own by photosynthesis to operate. The animal cell gets its energy from external sources when the organism it is part of eats.



### Flavr Savr Tomatoes

Regular tomatoes have a very short shelf life, meaning that aren't ripe for very long. Before GM the solution was to pick them before they were ripe then transport them to later ripen them artificially. This method made the fruit lose some of its taste.

A USA based company, Calgene saw this issue and set out to fix it by genetically modifying the tomato. They came out with the Flavr Savr which aimed to slow rotting and softening and prevented fungal infections by halting the production of an enzyme that breaks down cell walls in the tomato. Although it was not a big success as the was only a difference in the ripeness of the tomato and not the firmness.

Flavr Savr was a bit of a failure as it still had to be picked before it was ripe and artificially ripened after its journey. Later on the tomato was breded traditionally with other, better tasting tomatoes to make a more fungal resistant crop that tasted better. In the end Calgene was bought out and Flavr Savr was still sold at a premium cost.