

Undergraduate Life Sciences Research Conference

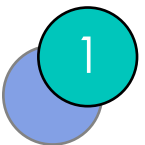
*St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.*

November 20th, 2010



Table of Contents

The Challenge.....	02
Background Information.....	03
Target Audience.....	04
Undergraduate Application Process.....	05
Judging Process.....	06
Application Form + Judging Form.....	07
Presentation Process + Judging Process.....	08
Poster Presentation + Poster Judging.....	09
Event Itinerary.....	10
Sponsors and Thank you.....	11



Current research conferences focus on established researchers, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students with few focusing on undergraduate students. Furthermore, any conference that does allow undergraduate student participation only permits competition in the format of a poster presentation. While this does have merit, on the journey toward scientific academia, oral and written communication of ideas is crucial to success. Presently, there is no life sciences research conference devoted to undergraduate students. The addition of such a conference will be extremely beneficial to undergraduate students, as well as the future scientific community.

The Undergraduate Life Sciences Research Conference will be the first of its kind in Canada. Participation will be encouraged for any undergraduate students performing research under a Principle Investigator associated with life sciences. Students who wish to participate will be required to submit their application at the end of their summer research term. They will be notified in late September regarding placement in the conference, which will be held on November 20, 2010 in the Samuel Cohen Auditorium at St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre. Six undergraduate students will be chosen to give an oral presentation of their research. As there is limited space for oral presentations, the students not chosen to give an oral presentation will be invited to present a poster at the conference.

The day will be composed of student presentations and keynote speakers who are making significant contributions to the life sciences in Manitoba. The focus of the presentations will follow a bench-to-bedside approach. There will be a total of four keynote presentations which will be presented by.

The importance of the ability to present scientific research is not emphasized in the undergraduate program. A key aspect of becoming a successful researcher is to be able to clearly communicate ideas and findings both orally and in writing. Modern research conferences currently accommodate established researchers, post-doctoral fellow, and graduate students, with few focusing on undergraduate students.

The following is a conference proposal that focuses on undergraduate students presenting their research endeavors in a similar method to other established scientific conferences. As the specialization of individual researchers becomes more precise, the ability to accurately present one's research across multiple scientific disciplines is of critical necessity. Importantly, this conference will focus on the development of this skill.



The event will be open to all undergraduate students who are doing research under a supervisor in life sciences. The student will not be limited to presenting solely their work. With their supervisor's permission, the student may also present how the work relates to the overall research project conducted by their supervisor. Each student will be responsible for demonstrating an understanding how their work relates to the larger project. The conference is open to first through fourth year undergraduate students, honor students, and new fourth year graduates (graduated in 2010).



Students will submit their abstracts and research summaries by August 31, 2010. The review committee will have one month to assess the submitted projects. The chosen students will be notified by September 30, 2010. The students will give ten minute presentations about their research to an audience and judging panel. There will be a five-minute question period after the presentation. Students selected for the poster competition will present to a judging committee over the lunch break.

The entire process will follow the same procedure as many standard scientific conferences. The undergraduate students will have been required to perform research in a life science discipline. Each student will be required to submit a extended abstract on their research (maximum 500 words). A review committee consisting of individuals from a range of life science disciplines will review the submitted applications. A list of tentative committee members is attached. The applicants who have been selected will be given one month's notice to prepare for either the oral presentation or poster competition.

The application form and extended abstract will be emailed to *information.ugconference@sbr.ca* in either pdf or Microsoft Word 2003 format.



Judging Process

The applications will be reviewed by ten different judges from different life science disciplines. The judges will allocate 10 marks to each application based on the content. All sheets will be submitted to Matthew Lytwyn and/or David Blackwood for tabulation.

Application Form

BACKGROUND

<i>Student Information:</i>	
Name:	_____
Faculty:	_____ Department: _____
Year in Program:	_____ Estimated Graduation Date: _____
Home Phone:	_____ 2 nd Phone: _____
E-mail Address:	_____
Project Title:	_____ _____
Project Authors:	_____ _____
<i>Supervisor's Information:</i>	
Supervisor:	_____
Faculty:	_____ Department: _____
Office Phone:	_____ E-mail Address: _____

The application form will be posted on the University of Manitoba's website for applicants. The entire application will be mailed to Matthew Lytwyn for distribution to the judges.

The presentations will be in PowerPoint format on either a USB flash drive or laptop. The presentations should be no longer than ten minutes, followed by a five minute question period. The presentation date is November 20th, 2010 at the Samuel N. Cohen Auditorium , St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre.



A panel of four judges will judge the presentations. Each judge will be selected from a different life science discipline. During the undergraduate student presentations, each judge will give the student a mark out of 25 to result in a final total of 100 marks. The judges will have no opportunity to preview the presentations.

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations have become an integral part of major scientific conferences. The poster competition for the conference will help expose undergraduate students to this common practice. Also, it will give an opportunity for more students to present and be judged on their work. Up to twenty-four applicants who are not selected to give an oral presentation will be considered for the poster competition. Posters will be displayed on boards in a common area and judged over the lunch break. Awards and honorable mentions will be presented at the conclusion of the conference. Posters may be made from several sheets of paper, poster board, or laminated poster. Overall poster size will not exceed 60"x40".



Posters will be judged by a panel of judges from different backgrounds of life science disciplines. The judges will evaluate the posters with a rubric based on scientific content of the poster and demonstration of understanding by the presenter. Twenty-four posters will be divided into two groups. Two groups of judges will judge the groups and the top two posters from each group will be judged a second time by a consolidated panel.

Poster Judging

8am Register	
8:45am - 9:00am.....	Opening Remarks
9:00am - 9:30am.....	Keynote Speaker I
9:35am - 10:00am.....	Graduate Keynote Speaker
10:00am - 10:15am.....	<i>Break</i>
11:15am - 11:40pm.....	Resident Keynote Speaker
11:45pm-12:00pm.....	Undergraduate Presentation I
12:05pm-12:20pm.....	Undergraduate Presentation II
12:20pm - 1:50pm.....	<i>Lunch</i>
.....	Poster Presentations
1:50pm - 2:05pm.....	Undergraduate Presentation III
2:10pm-2:25pm.....	Undergraduate Presentation IV
2:30am - 2:45pm.....	<i>Break</i>
2:50pm - 3:05pm.....	Undergraduate Presentation V
3:10pm-3:25pm.....	Undergraduate Presentation IV
3:30pm - 4:00pm.....	Keynote Speaker II
4:00pm.....	Awards/Closing Remarks/Reception

An Important Thank You...

Dr. Elizabeth Worobec - University of Manitoba, Faculty of Science

Dr. Bram Ramjiawan - St. Boniface General Hospital Research

Mrs. Maureen Paisley - University of Manitoba, Faculty of Science

Without their guidance and support, this endeavor would not have been possible.

Mr. Robert Blauch - Samuel N. Cohen Auditorium , St. Boniface General Hospital Research

Mr. Bill Peters - Samuel N. Cohen Auditorium, St. Boniface General Hospital Research

Thank you for sharing your expertise in hosting conferences and technical assistance.

Any questions can be forwarded to information.ugconference@sbr.ca.

