

The 8th Annual Workshop of the Undergraduate Research In Mass Spectrometry Interest Group
ASMS 2017, Indianapolis, IN, June 4 - 8 2017

Jim Pesavento (Saint Mary's College of California) and Megan Gessel (University of Puget Sound) co-chairs

The interest group sponsored a workshop on "Getting the Most out of Undergraduate Mass Spectrometry Research" on Wednesday, June 7 with a panel discussion designed for undergraduates attending the ASMS meeting and focused on how to leverage undergraduate research experiences into success in graduate school and industry. I gave a brief introduction on what this interest group covers and what we do during the conference. I then introduced the panelists and opened the floor up to them. The last slide in the presentation had their names and some priming questions. I think this worked very well as the panelists reference back to the slide/questions to keep the momentum going. The panel featured Daniel Ryan (Vanderbilt), Tarick El-Baba (Indiana University), Joshua Gilbert (Ohio State University) and Kelly Karch (University of Pennsylvania), and Abby Gelb (University of Nebraska, Lincoln). Members of the panel each briefly spoke about benefits of undergraduate research and then answered questions on how to facilitate undergraduate mentoring and successful undergraduate experiences, how to leverage an undergraduate research experience in mass spectrometry into the next position. I also provided these questions to help them get started:

- How did they decide graduate school was right for them?
- What was the application process like? How did they decide the school/research group they're with?
- What are the research expectations like? Teaching expectations?
- What's the **most critical** piece of advice they had (or wished they had) received as a graduate student?

I estimated ~30 undergraduates and ~5 professors/industry reps were in attendance. The panel and the students were very interactive and the conversation lasted the entire time (1 hr 15 min). There was a comment from a faculty member directed to other faculty members in the audience asking how they go about choosing undergraduates to work with.

In addition, the Interest Group organized and sponsored a variety of activities at this year's meeting aimed at undergraduates and faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions.

1) "Making the most of ASMS: What to see, hear and do", a tutorial for Undergraduates and Graduate Students attending ASMS for the first time. This presentation was given Sunday, June 4, 2017 4:00-4:45pm by Chrisi Hughey of James Madison University. Topics covered included navigating the program, tips on networking, and basics of mass spectrometry. This session saw about the same number of attendees compared to last year, with ~75 attendees. We propose ASMS staff, as they did this year and last year, to arrange the room and advertise the session, while the undergraduate interest group arrange the facilitators and program.

2) Undergraduate Poster Session, Sunday June 4, 2017 during the opening reception. The poster session was organized by Darrin Smith and Dil Ramanathan, featured 33 entries (same number as last year). This session provides undergraduates a valuable opportunity to present their research to multiple experts (judges). The poster session was centrally located near the refreshments, which resulted in many casual attendees beyond just the students and judges involved with the session, resulting in a very well-attended poster session. The undergraduates were also included in the regular poster session, which is important for them to disseminate their results.

3) Lunch with the Experts, Monday June 5, 2017. Undergraduates were invited to attend a lunch in the exhibit hall for informal discussions with former ASMS award winners and rising stars. We had good attendance from the students (~25) and 5 experts (Neil Kelleher, Ben Garcia, Alan Marshall, Peter Nemes, Erin Baker and Abraham Badu-Tawiah).