

Undergraduate Research in MS Interest Group Workshop Report (13th annual)
2024 ASMS Annual Conference
Anaheim, CA

Presiding: Micah Donor (George Fox University)

The theme of this year's workshop was Undergraduate Research: Making the Most of It! The format of the workshop was a panel discussion, with panelists Michael Marty (University of Arizona), Bryan Miller (Agilent), Emma Guiberson (Middlebury College), Peyton Windham (Furman University), and Karen Lohnes (LA Unified School District). To provide a diverse range of perspectives, panelists were chosen to include representatives from industry, R1, PUI, and a current undergraduate student. Mirroring the diverse composition of the panel, workshop attendees included PUI faculty, postdocs, graduate students, undergraduate students, and industrial scientists. For approximately the first half of the workshop, panelists answered a series of questions posed by the presider, with the second half devoted to answering questions from attendees. Topics discussed included the characteristics of a good undergraduate research project, qualities needed by undergraduate researchers and their mentors, benefits and challenges associated with undergraduate research (in both PUI and R1 contexts), acquiring skills that are attractive to graduate PIs and industry managers, internship and postgraduate opportunities available in industry and how to find them, and collaborations between PUIs and R1 or industry groups. During the workshop discussion and in a post-attendance survey, attendees shared several ideas for future interest group activities, including creating a database of internship and postgraduate opportunities for students, providing networking and mentoring opportunities for newer faculty members at PUIs, and developing more formalized industry partnerships to source used instruments for institutions that are budget-constrained.

Workshop attendance: ~25