

The 3rd Annual Workshop of the Undergraduate Research in Mass Spectrometry Interest Group
(URGMS)

ASMS 2012; Vancouver, Canada

May 21, 5:45 – 7:30 pm

1. “Current Topics Mass Spectrometry Workshop

We, the co-chairs, are proud to report that seventy-five attendees were present for the 3rd Annual meeting of the Undergraduate Research in Mass Spectrometry Workshop entitled “Current Topics in Mass Spectrometry.” At least half of the attendees were students; others were their mentors. Dr. Elaine Marzluff from Grinnell College began the program with an overview of different mass analyzers. She compared figures of merit such as resolving power and mass accuracy. Dr. Demian Ifa from York University then discussed MS Imaging. Dr. David Smith from Sheffield Hallam University ended the program with biological applications of ion mobility. Each speaker presented for 20 min. Both students and faculty felt that they learned something in the workshop. Most importantly, we feel the Monday program provided undergraduates with foundational knowledge that helped them gain more from presentations throughout the week.

2. The URGMS Business Meeting

After the presentations, the URGMS Interest Group held a business meeting for ~30-45 min. We brainstormed about the content for the 2013 ASMS program. As an interest group, we serve two different audiences: undergraduates and their advisors. Development of a program that serves both audiences is a challenge. Dr. Grant's opinion (outgoing chair) is that if material relevant to faculty issues isn't addressed regularly, we will lose the interest of our core participants. Two ideas emerged as a means to address this challenge:

Idea 1: Separate workshops for undergraduates and faculty

We discussed having two separate sessions. The Monday workshop would continue to serve as a workshop/tutorial on “hot topics” in mass spectrometry for undergraduates. A social aspect could be added to allow the UGs to engage more with each other. The second program would focus on faculty development and provide a venue for faculty to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with undergraduate research (e.g., grantsmanship, instrumentation, etc).

Idea 2: An integrated panel discussion of faculty, undergraduates and graduate students

We also discussed having an integrated panel of PUI faculty, undergraduates and graduate students that had attended ASMS as undergrads. Perhaps the panel could address undergraduate issues in the first half of the workshop (e.g., career development/opportunities, graduate school, etc.) and faculty issues in the second half.

We also discussed alternating “Idea 1” and “Idea 2” in subsequent years (e.g., tutorial in 2012, panel in 2013). Perhaps we should survey the IG members to determine how needs are best met. Other IGs have conducted such surveys with the help of ASMS and Survey Monkey.

Other business

Dr. Grant's term as co-chair expires at the next meeting of the ASMS Directory Board. Dr. JC Poutsma from William and Mary stepped forward as the co-chair candidate. Dr. Chrisi Hughey has one year remaining. Drs. Darren Smith and Dil Ramanathan will continue to organize the undergraduate poster session. Next year, one of them will rotate out, allowing another individual to rotate in.

In all, this URGMS workshop and business meeting were highly successful, and we continue to evaluate the needs of our members, and create a forum where members can openly discuss their thoughts and needs as pertain to supporting research that involves undergraduates.

Faithfully submitted,

Jen Grant PhD and Chrisi Hughey PhD, co-chairs