

The 4th Annual Workshop of the Undergraduate Research in Mass Spectrometry Interest Group
ASMS 2013, Minneapolis, MN
June 10th 5:30 – 7:00
Chrisi Hughey (James Madison University) and J.C. Poutsma (College of William and Mary) –
co-chairs

1. “Surviving and Thriving: A panel discussion for both students and PUI faculty on how to get the most out of undergraduate research”

Approximately 60 people attended the workshop. Roughly 40 were current undergraduate students or graduate students. Two separate panel discussions were held during the workshop each with three panelists that answered questions and served to guide audience participation in the workshop.

The first panel was focused on undergraduate student issues. Carina Minardi (a graduate student at Georgetown University), Rebeca Pinhancos (a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin), and Dr. Bruce Wilcox (from Applied Proteomics) served as panel members. Both graduate students performed research in mass spectrometry as undergraduates and they shared their experiences with student members of the audience. They also answered questions about time management, transitioning from undergraduate research to graduate research, and on networking at conferences. Dr. Wilcox answered questions about what industry recruiters are looking for from undergraduate researchers.

The second panel was focused on issues of interest to PUI faculty. The panel consisted of Professor Lin He (NC State University and NSF Program Officer), Professor Chrisi Hughey (James Madison University), and Professor Jianhua Ren (The University of the Pacific). Panelists fielded questions about grant writing, funding opportunities, balance of teaching and research in a PUI setting, and about mentoring undergraduate researchers.

2. Business Meeting:

During the last 15 minutes of the workshop, we conducted a business meeting. The URGMS interest group serves a very diverse set of members including undergraduate and graduate students as well as PUI and R1 faculty. Having two panels to serve both sets of constituents was successful, but the group felt that we could easily have spent the whole workshop on either panel. For 2014 we are planning to concentrate on student concerns during the workshop. We hope to continue having the workshop on Monday so the undergraduates can benefit from new knowledge when attending talks and posters sessions later in the week. We will be looking into the possibility of having a separate less-formal meeting for PUI faculty at some point during the week, possibly during the breakfast hour.

Chrisi Hughey is ending her second year as co-chair in July, Elaine Marzluff from Grinnell College has volunteered to serve as a new co-chair. J.C. Poutsma will continue as co-chair for a second year. Darren Smith and Dil Ramanathan have graciously agreed to continue to organize the undergraduate poster session. In regards to the poster session, we continue to agree that this is a great opportunity for young mass spectrometrists to get valuable experience in

presenting research results. Some members of the group feel that they are missing out on the opening mixer, which is a value opportunity for networking. The opening mixer used to be two hours long, but is was shorter this year. If the mixer continues to be less than two hours long, we may need to explore a different time for the UG poster session.

The URGMS group would like to formally request that a check-box be added to the registration form for the 2014 meeting that will identify the attendee as an undergraduate student. We would welcome the opportunity to have a list of all undergraduate students at the meeting, so that we can invite them to the workshop and possibly to other less-formal social events.

All in all, this was a very successful workshop and we look forward to putting together a workshop in 2014 that will serve the needs of our student and faculty members.

Chrisi Hughey and J.C. Poutsma, co-chairs.