

Host Chapter

Biochemistry Association, The University of Texas at Dallas

Chapter adviser

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Title of Meeting: A Summer of Research: An Undergraduate Symposium

Meeting Date: Saturday September 8, 2018

Abstract Submission Deadline: Monday, August 20, 2018

Registration Submission Deadline: Monday, August 27, 2018

Website: Meeting website will be part of current society website. See <http://biochemutd.wixsite.com/home>.



Meeting Description

Undergraduate researchers across North Texas will have the opportunity to present their research in a poster contest at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) in an ASBMB-sponsored Regional Meeting. This meeting will be organized by students who are part of the Biochemistry Association at UT Dallas. We will publicize the meeting at UT Dallas, University of Dallas, UT Arlington, Texas Christian University, Texas Commerce, Baylor University, UT Tyler, Texas Woman's University, University of North Texas, and Abilene Christian University. From submitted abstracts, 60 undergraduates will be chosen to present posters. Undergraduate students who do not get accepted will be encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the various events. Undergraduates will be chosen to present based on abstract review following the ASBMB guidelines. Abstracts will be reviewed by Professors in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UT Dallas.

The meeting will contain the following events:

1. Poster Competition

This will be separated into two 45-minute time slots. Even-numbered posters will be presented first, followed by the odd-numbered posters. This will give the students the chance to view the other posters. The posters will be judged by four Professors from represented schools, as well as UT Southwestern Medical Center. The top six posters will be recognized with a certificate in a short awards ceremony at the end of the day. The top three will be awarded a \$500 travel award to attend the 2019 ASBMB Annual Conference.

2. Keynote Speakers

Two keynote speakers will be invited to give an overview of their research at a level appropriate for an undergraduate audience. These talks will each be 35 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of questions. We have not yet chosen the exact speakers, but are confident that

Professors from UT Southwestern Medical Center (and possibly other participating schools) would be eager to attend. We recently (October 14, 2017) hosted a Bioresearch Conference for undergraduates and had 10 researchers from UT Southwestern volunteer to give 20-minute presentations. We had 140 UT Dallas undergraduates attend this event. The invited Professors will be from biochemistry and molecular biology programs, paralleling the research of the undergraduate students.

3. Interactive Panel

A 45-minute, interactive, Q & A panel will be held just before lunch. The topic of the panel will be “Taking the Next Step”. The goal is to discuss topics related to a PhD or MD/PhD. On the panel will be a PhD student, an MD/PhD student, several Professors, and, if possible, representatives from graduate school programs in North Texas. The goal is to provide participants with insights that will help them consider the best steps after their undergraduate careers.

4. “Speed-dating” Lunch

Over lunch we will conduct “speed-dating” with the speakers and panelists. Each special guest will be seated at a designated table. The participants then collect their lunch and join them. The “speed-dating” comes in as every 15 minutes we ask the participants to rotate to a new table (the special guests stay where they are). We used this system at our recent Bioresearch Conference and found it to be extremely effective at encouraging the participants to interact with the special guests. In fact, many students at our recent conference said it was their favorite part of the day. It allows the participants to overcome their fears in approaching the special guests, and practice interacting with Professors.

A tentative itinerary for these events is shown below. We are extremely excited at the prospect of hosting an ASBMB Regional Meeting, and feel that our previous experience organizing the Bioresearch Conference gives us the skills necessary to run the meeting professionally. We are familiar with all the logistics at UT Dallas (room bookings, room set up, on-campus parking, catering etc.) and have an enthusiastic committee eager to get to work!

Budget outline

The \$600 budget will be used to cover breakfast and lunch (estimated \$400 based on our previous event with 140 participants), and miscellaneous items (estimated \$200 for name tags, program printing, temporary parking permits, special guest thank you gifts, runner-up gift cards, poster pins etc.). While the budget provided by ASBMB should suffice to cover most of the costs, we will use our resources to cover any excess expense. Our Bioresearch Conference, for example, was supported by a donation from VWR.

Tentative Itinerary

9:00 – 10:00am Breakfast & Poster Set-Up

10:00 – 10:15am..... Welcome

10:15 – 11:00am Keynote Speaker #1

11:00 – 11:45am Poster Session #1

11:45 – 12:30pm Panel

12:30 – 1:30pm Lunch

1:30 – 2:15pm Poster Session #2

2:15 – 3:00pm Keynote Speaker #2

3:00 – 3:30pm Awards Ceremony & Closing Remarks