

Abstract Guidelines

An abstract is a summary of your research that highlights major points covered in the work, concisely describing the content and scope of what you present in your poster. In the case of the conference presentation, your audience reads the abstract to make informed decisions about which poster presentations they are interested in attending. Abstracts should be no more than 200 words and should conform to the conventions of your Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) discipline. Please consult with your faculty mentor and have him/her guide you as you write your abstract before it is submitted.

The following is a guide for what you might include in your abstract, depending on your mentor's guidance:

- Purpose of your research study
- Hypothesis, or question your study answers
- Description of the research study
- Summary of most significant results
- Conclusions, and Implications (refers to recommendations for future research of work)

Your abstract MUST include the following:

1. Student's full name, Student's Major
2. Title of Presentation
3. Institution of student
4. Faculty mentor, mentor's title, and his/her department, institution
5. Program Sponsor (for example, if you are conducting your research with a New Mexico AMP program at one of its institutions in New Mexico, your sponsor is New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation)
6. Text of Abstract (no more than 200 words)

Example Abstract:

Jerry Garcia, Biology

University of New Mexico

Mentor: Dr. Macy Terrazas, Assoc. Professor, Biology, and

University of New Mexico

Sponsored by: New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation

The RNA Function in the Hepatitis C Virus

The Hepatitis C Virus initiates translation via a non-scanning cap-independent translation mechanism that is distinct from the mechanism used by the host. Drug design targeting this mechanism is an attractive strategy because it has the potential to affect the viral function without interfering the normal cellular functions. The major aim of this project is to use site directed mutagenesis to systematically alter the RNA structure near the start codon to further characterize the role of this structure. Other students are performing the site directed mutagenesis and chemically characterizing the structural modifications that result from these mutations. The scope of this portion of the project is to functionally evaluate these mutations with respect to the HCV IRES translation in, in vitro translation assays