

Abstract Guidelines

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 of 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 vitro translation.