



Instructions for Presenters

Thank you for participating in SCURC 2017! Please take careful note of the instructions below.

POSTER PRESENTERS

Posters should be no larger than 48" x 42".

Arrive early to set-up your poster.

Find your assigned poster board labeled with your corresponding number in the conference schedule and mount your poster on the board.

Present your work.

You should remain at your display for the entire poster session period. During this time, attendees and judges will walk around and browse the posters they find interesting. Keep in mind that your audience will represent diverse academic backgrounds and levels of training. Allow time and space for people to read your poster, but also be well-prepared to explain your research (in less than 5 min.) and to answer questions. You can expect to be visited by at least 1-2 judges, who will critique your poster's technical layout/design and scientific content, as well as your oral presentation.

Dismantle your poster immediately after the poster session concludes.

When you dismantle your poster, please return your pins to the registration desk.

ORAL PRESENTERS

Arrive early to the room assigned for your oral presentation and introduce yourself to the session chair.

Each talk is allotted 20-minutes, so you should present for 15 – 17 minutes, and allow for 3 – 5 minutes of Q&A.

You may use your own laptop to present your talk in each lecture room, but be sure you have the appropriate adapter if your laptop does not have a VGA port.

We will announce the awards for Outstanding Oral and Outstanding Poster presentations at the end of the closing keynote session. Students must be present to accept their awards and raffle prizes, so we hope you will stay for the entire event.

Don't forget to HAVE FUN! This is a great professional opportunity to expand your chemistry knowledge and communication skills, to gain new insights and feedback, and to make new contacts!

For more information, please visit: <http://www.chemistry.ucla.edu/events/acs-southern-california-undergraduate-research-conference>.

On Communicating Your Research

Scientists share their ideas and results of experimental or theoretical work with their colleagues and the general public in the form of poster presentations and talks at conferences, and in the form of detailed scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals. Each year millions of papers are published and that means that it is hard to get noticed. How do scientists increase the exposure of their ideas and research results? The answer relies on skillful and professional presentation. Presenting a poster in a conference is a great starting point to your scientific career.

Writing your Title

There are several elements in the scientific work that can be used to attract attention. First, the title should clearly reflect the essence of the work without being too technical or verbose. **"Making of a Living Organism in the Lab"** is attractive but it would have been too broad (and too bold) while *Chemical Synthesis of 1080 Base-pair Oligonucleotides Encoding for Mycoplasma mycoides Followed by a Step-wise Homologous Recombination in Saccharomyces cerevisiae, and Transplantation of the Resulting Semi-synthetic Genome into a Recipient Mycoplasma capricolum Cell.*" would have been considered too technical. Notice that it is customary to capitalize all nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives with the exception of Latin names of scientific species.

Writing your abstract

If your title catches the attention of your potential reader, he or she will take a look at your abstract next in order to decide if your work merits further attention. Your abstract is a brief highly readable summary of your scholarly work and novel contributions that will be outlined in your poster, talk, or research paper. Keep in mind that your abstract will be viewed by a broad audience and will be often publicly available for a long time. It might be evaluated by specialists in the field who are interested in your specific contribution, it will be read by your colleagues to see what you have been up to, it may be checked out by your future employer

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to assess your willingness to work hard, or it may be scanned by some funding agency official to judge if you and your mentor spent the grant money appropriately. This means that your abstract should be scientifically rigorous, but also readable by people who are not specialists in your narrow research field.

What Belongs and Does Not Belong to Your Abstract

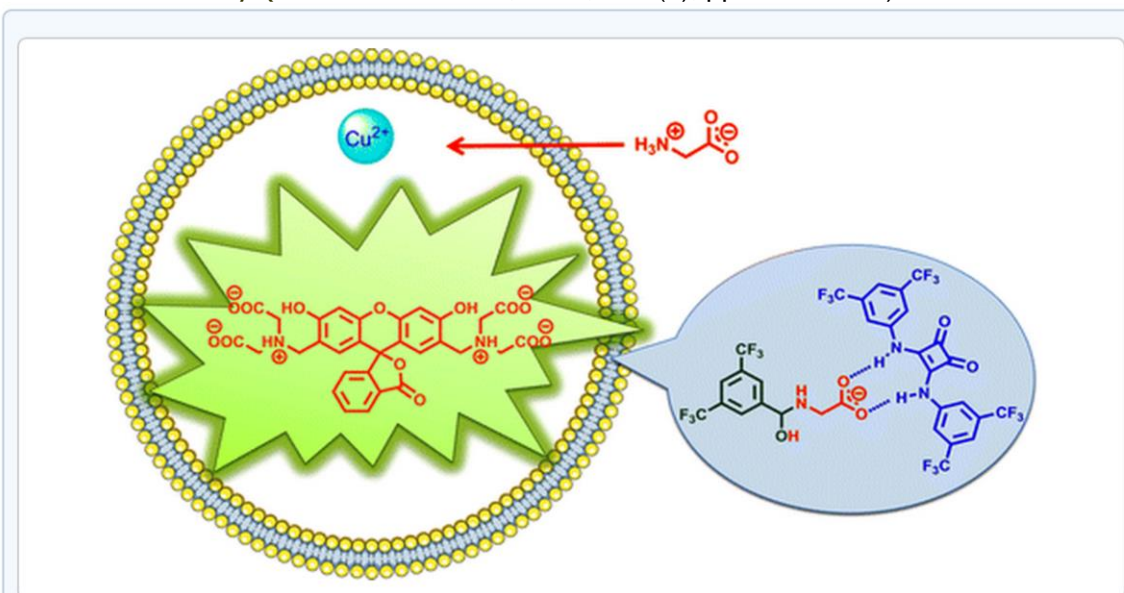
There are no hard, general rules in writing an abstract. However, a good abstract usually states the problem that you are trying to solve and outlines the guiding hypothesis that you will be following. In a sentence or two, it describes what methodology and techniques were used to tackle the problem. The bulk of the abstract would describe the novel findings from your work, and discuss the implication of these findings. If you can make a firm conclusion about the system you were studying based on your results, you can finish your abstract with such a conclusion. If your work did not allow to make firm conclusions but uncovered new questions, suggested new experiments, or raised new hypotheses, it is appropriate to mention these near the end.

Notice that the abstract in natural sciences is not a place to provide an extensive literature review about your object of study, nor it is a place to compare, contrast, and critique ideas of other researchers. People are not looking to abstracts to find excuses on why your experiments failed, or learn that the rigorous data analysis was beyond the intellectual capabilities of the authors. While you know well that the research you report on could have been done better, do not dwell in the abstract on the shortcomings of your work. A discussion section in the paper is an appropriate place to suggest further experiments and improvements.

Graphical abstract is a common practice in many journals and conference proceeding booklets. The old adage “A picture is worth 1000 words” is true. You can deliver concise information in eye-catching manner. It is extra work but think for a minute: Would you rather read a paragraph or look at a picture? Graphical abstract should be accurate and clear. See more about designing figures below.

Example Abstract

Below is an example abstract that was published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2015**, *137* (4), pp 1476–1484)



We report a dynamic covalent approach to transmembrane transport of amino acids by the formation of a three-component assembly. A mixture of a squaramide and a lipophilic and electrophilic aldehyde is shown to synergistically transport highly polar glycine (Gly) across vesicle membranes. The transport was investigated by a ^{13}C NMR assay, an osmotic response assay, a newly developed fluorescence assay suitable for measuring Gly influx, and other fluorescence assays for leakage and pH change. The transport is proposed to occur via a hydrogen-bonded anionic glycine hemiaminal/imine, accompanied by transport of OH^- in the opposite direction. Several control experiments support the role of hemiaminal/imine in the observed facilitated Gly transport. Proton NMR studies of a biphasic system show the presence of both the hemiaminal and imine formed between Gly and an aldehyde. Interestingly, the synergistic effect has also been observed for sarcosine, which can form hemiaminals but not imines. The results demonstrate the potential of hemiaminal formation for the facilitated transport of substrates containing primary and secondary amino groups.

As you can see, the authors tell us in the first sentence what the paper is about and what their findings. Then they proceed to describe the methodology and techniques that were used or developed. They reveal the conclusions from each experiment and conclude with a border impact of the results.

It is useful to read several abstracts before embarking on writing your own.

Figures

Designing effective figure is requires many revisions. In fact, some scientists start a publication by designing figures. You can get excellent tips from this published paper: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/adma.201102518/epdf>

Technical matters

Publishers and conference organizers often place specific formatting requirements on abstracts. Typically the length will be restricted to a certain number of words (often 300 words in total). You are expected to use a font that is easy on the eye: Times New Roman, Palatino Linotype, Arial, and Helvetica are good choices; *Curly* and *Fraktur* are not. You should use a font size that is not too small (less than 10 pt is typically too small) nor too big (e.g. larger than 16 pt) and keep a reasonable spacing (1 or 1.5 lines) between lines. Many publishers require a graphical abstract, others want you to submit only text. Along with the abstract, you are sometimes expected to provide full names of all authors, their institutional affiliations, and the contact information for the corresponding author. In other cases, organizers or publishers will add this information when they prepare the booklet of abstracts.