Creating Scientific and Graphical Abstracts as an Interactive Session in a Summer Research Fellowship

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Abstract

Short-term research experiences such as summer fellowship programs provide students with an opportunity to develop their research skills, explore career options, and improve written and oral communication skills. Most summer research programs for undergraduate students require a final poster or podium presentation. At Rutgers University, we developed an interactive session for undergraduate students to conceptualize and draft written and graphical abstracts that would summarize the major findings of their research and be distributed at our University, we developed an interactive session for undergraduate students to conceptualize and draft written and graphical abstracts that would summarize the major findings of their research and be distributed at our University.

Example Graphical Abstracts

RAGE Expression in Nitrogen Mustard Induced Acute Lung Injury in the Rat

Nitrogen mustard induces acute lung injury (ALI) in the rat.

Design and Synthesis of Potential Phthalimide-Based Inhibitors of Keap1-Nrf2 Protein-Protein Interaction

Keap1-Nrf2 interaction.

Examining the Contribution of the Microbiota to the Healthy Aging AC5KO Phenotype

Microbiota contribution to healthy aging.

Approach

One Hour Activity during Week 7 of a 10-Week Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program

- Instructor breakdown parts of Scientific & Graphical Abstracts
- 5 Min Writing for Each Section
- Students Read their Section to the Group
- Peer & Instructor Feedback
- Mentor Feedback

Assessment & Outcomes

- Weekly fellowship activities are well-received by participants.
- Notably, the Abstract Writing activity had the highest rating.
- Four SURF participants are presenting research posters at the 2018 Society of Toxicology meeting.
- Three SURF participants are presenting research posters at the 2018 Experimental Biology meeting.

Acknowledgments

https://surf.rutgers.edu