February 2020

CURCE NEWSLETTER

FIRST FULL MONTH OF SPRING SEMESTER, 2020

What's inside this month's issue of the CURCE newsletter?

Inside you'll find funding opportunities and their deadlines along with information about our 17th Annual UAlbany Showcase! Make sure to RSVP for the conference by March 6th. If you missed the abstract writing workshop, no need to worry! Reach out to the Writing Center to set up an appointment. Be sure to attend our last two pre-conference workshops in April - the Poster Workshop and Oral Presentation Workshop.

Read more to find out about how NCRC 2020 (National Collegiate Research Conference) went as three of our team members attended! Also learn more about iLearn Workshops through the University Library and the RNA Institute symposium.

On the last page you will find a Faculty Feature who researches topics related to puberty.

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Sorrell Chesin & Situation Prize for Research:
February 28 DEADLINE
-THIS FRIDAY-

Conference Application:
March 6 DEADLINE

Visit the CURCE website under "Student Awards and Funding" to apply for Sorrell and Situation. Visit the link in our bio to apply for the conference.

NCRC 2020
Harvard University

This year's NCRC was at Harvard University, where we sent FIVE students to present their UAlbany research this past month. We are so proud of our students and the accomplishments they have achieved!
Presenting in the 17th Annual UAlbany Showcase is such a great idea because it shows future colleagues and employers that you're a go-getter. It shows them that you go above and beyond what is asked of you in the classroom and lab. Presenting gives students the opportunity to network with faculty and staff who come to see your work. Whether presenting an oral presentation or a poster, be a part of our big day.
An abstract is written to save someone time, and to guide someone to your work.

Info about Abstracts:
- Abstracts should be purely functional
- An abstract is written to save someone time, and to guide someone to your work
- Different disciplines may write abstracts differently
- You may need to alter your abstract depending on its function
- For example, you may need a more descriptive abstract for a conference, but a more informative abstract for a thesis or publication
- There is no “perfect way” to write an abstract
- In general, you want to include some background/context, a statement of the research problem/question, methods, and results/conclusions

Tips for Writing an Abstract:
- Look at abstracts in other articles
- Identify things like the structure, order, type of information, etc in the abstract
- Note what you like and don’t like about the abstracts
- Find an abstract you like, and break it down line by line
- Try to identify what each sentence is telling you
  - Context
  - Reason for research
  - Background research
  - Research question/problem
  - Methods
  - Conclusions
  - Etc
- Use this information when writing your own abstract
- Writing Center:
  - The writing center is a great resource for writing your abstract
  - Keep in mind that tutors at the writing center are available to help

"An abstract is written to save someone time, and to guide someone to your work."
Early Bird Registration and Abstracts:
- Talks: abstracts due by Feb 7, 2020
- Posters: abstracts due March 6, 2020

Undergraduate Fellowship applications:
- Due by Feb 16, 2020

Nobel Laureate and Distinguished Keynote Speaker:
- Michael Rosbash, Brandeis University
  - Wednesday, March 18

7TH ANNUAL RNA SYMPOSIUM

March 18-20, 2020
RNA Institute's 7th Annual RNA Symposium brings together science experts, students and industry professionals who conduct basic, applied and translational research in RNA.

- Early Bird Registration and Abstracts:
  - Talks: abstracts due by Feb 7, 2020
  - Posters: abstracts due March 6, 2020
- Undergraduate Fellowship applications:
  - Due by Feb 16, 2020
- Nobel Laureate and Distinguished Keynote Speaker:
  - Michael Rosbash, Brandeis University
  - Wednesday, March 18

- Workshops:
  Held on Wednesday, March 18 and will include the following topics as well as some new additions:
  - Epitranscriptomics
  - Gradient fractionation
  - How to perform miRacles
  - Myotonic dystrophy and other microsatellite disorders
  - Sequencing technologies
  - RNA Simulations Mini-Symposium

The schedule for the 1-1.5 hr workshops is now available! The schedule and description of workshops is online along with the registration.

Visit: https://library.albany.edu/ilearn to find out more.

Note: Walk-ins are welcome! Registration is NOT required.
Contact: Regina Testa at rtesta@albany.edu

List of sample topics:
- Maximizing Your Research Impact for Graduate Students and Faculty
- Introduction to Text Encoding
- Data Mining and Visualization: ABC's
- Editing Video with Final Cut Pro
Puberty is the process of hormonal and physical changes that leads our body to reach sexual maturity and reproductive competence. The hormonal changes that initiate and control puberty are coordinated by a specialized population called Gonadotropic Releasing Hormone (GnRH) neurons. The GnRH neurons modulate the release of signaling molecules from the brain, that control the synthesis and release of sex hormones from the gonads (ovaries in females and testicles in males). During embryonic development, the GnRH are generated by stem cells in the nose and then they migrate into the brain. Defective migration of the GnRH neurons to the brain negatively affects the production of sex hormones, the onset of puberty and therefore fertility. In a study recently published on the Journal of Neuroscience a research team lead by Dr. Forni identified a key role for a transcription called Gli3, in controlling the migratory process of the GnRH-I neurons to the brain. Moreover, Dr. Forni's team, in collaboration with Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Mass. Gen Hospital, was able to identify a new genetic mutation of the GLI3 gene in humans associated with lack of puberty. These data have important clinical relevance as they provide new insights into GnRH-I development and suggest that human GLI3 mutations can contribute to reproductive disorders in humans. Work of Dr. Forni's group was supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health (Grants IR15HD09641001 and IR01HD097331-01) and by the National Institute of Deafness and other Communication Disorders of the National Institutes of Health (Grant IR01DC017149-01A1).