



2023 Official Rules Student Research Awards

INTRODUCTION

The MCF Student Research Awards are designed to encourage students (both undergraduate and graduate students) to become involved in scientific research projects that involve chromatography, to reward them for successfully achieving results, and to encourage them to become involved with the Minnesota Chromatography Forum (MCF). In order to be considered for the award, a student, under the sponsorship of an academic or other professional mentor, **must present results at the MCF Spring Symposium** for a project in which chromatography or some other form of separation science plays a role.

A panel of at least three reviewers will judge all student presentations at the symposium and divide \$4000 in prize money between the student presenters based on the quality of their work, using the criteria listed below. If undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students give presentations, the award money will be divided into different categories. The awardees will be notified at the end of the Symposium.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any student, regardless of major, who is enrolled in a college, university or technical institute, is eligible. They can have completed their work in an academic lab or off campus with a non-academic project mentor.

PROJECT MENTORS

Project mentors can be any professional scientist. This includes both faculty members of a science, math, or engineering department at a college, university or technical institute and scientists mentoring student interns at companies or state and federal agencies.

RESEARCH PROJECT CRITERIA

The research project whose results are reported in the application must be one in which chromatography or some other separation technique (electrophoresis, mass spectrometry, etc.) plays an important role.

Projects directly involved in separation science, as well as projects in which separation techniques are used to solve problems in chemistry, biology or some other area, are encouraged. In other words, the project does not need to center around chromatography, but some form of separation science should be an important part in generating the results.

Applications will be judged on creativity of the project, the completeness of the study, the clarity of the presentation, and the importance of the results, but not on the sophistication of the equipment to be used. Given that most scientific research projects are the summative efforts of multiple people working in collaboration, the individual contribution of the applicant should be clearly communicated by the applicant and their mentor in the cover letter that is submitted with the application (see below).

REVIEW PANEL

The review panel will consist of at least three judges who have had significant experience in chromatography or a related science. Panel members will be represented by both academic and non-academic scientists. Panel members will recuse themselves from reviewing any application from a person with whom they have a conflict of interest. All decisions of the panel pertaining to the selection of the winning presentations are final.

INSTRUCTIONS

Students wishing to be considered for the MCF Student Award should submit an abstract for the MCF Spring Symposium following the standard format. In addition, the mentor should send a message or letter to the SRA program chair. This letter should clearly state that the student had major involvement in the work presented. Any work presented that was performed by someone other than the student presenter should be clarified. The letter should also state where the work was performed and the school where the student is enrolled (if different than the lab where the work was performed).

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Inquiries about this research award should be directed to:

Dr. Tony Borgerding, Chair MCF SRA Committee

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Information about the Minnesota Chromatography Forum can be found at:

<http://www.mnchrom.com>