Full-time community college students who have completed at least 30 credit hours, undergraduate sophomores, juniors, seniors, and postbaccalaureates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), are invited to submit abstracts for the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) which will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona, from Wednesday, November 1, to Saturday, November 4, 2017.

ABRCMS gives students the opportunity to present their research through poster and oral presentations and expand their scientific and professional development through innovative sessions, as well as networking and mentoring opportunities. Students also learn about graduate schools, summer research opportunities, and postdoctoral fellowships by participating in the ABRCMS exhibits program, which includes more than 650 representatives from institutions and organizations throughout the United States. The conference continues its focus on interdisciplinary science, which draws on multiple research disciplines.

ABRCMS is supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under award number R13GM113579-02. The content of this document is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

Abstract Submission Site: bit.ly/abrabstracts17

New in 2017

- Presenters receive an invitation to attend an interactive online webinar on developing outstanding poster/oral presentations (scheduled in October)
- Re-organized disciplines and sub-disciplines

Acceptance/No Show Policy -
In order to participate in the judging program, individuals must “accept” their invitation to present. Presentation date/time will not be provided to presenters until they have accepted. If an individual accepts to present and does not show up to present, they will not be able to participate in next year’s judging program. Presenters at the 2016 conference who did not present are ineligible to participate in the 2017 judging program.

Important Dates & Deadlines

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ABRCMS 2017 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Eligibility: Poster Presentation

- As of November 1, 2017, you must be currently enrolled full-time as one of the following:
  - Community college student*
  - Undergraduate sophomore, junior, or senior
  - Postbaccalaureate student
- Have conducted research, used experimental methods and developed results in one of the 12 ABRCMS scientific disciplines (see pages 6-7)

*Community college students need to have completed at least 30 credit hours in order to be eligible.

If you are not enrolled as one of these student types during the conference, you are NOT eligible to present your research. Your eligibility is based on your enrolled education level as of November 1, 2017 and NOT your education level when you conducted your research.

Eligibility: Oral Presentation

- As of November 1, 2017, you must be currently enrolled full-time as one of the following:
  - Community college student*
  - Undergraduate sophomore, junior, or senior
  - Have conducted research, used experimental methods and developed results in one of the 12 ABRCMS scientific disciplines (see pages 6-7)

*Community college students need to have completed at least 30 credit hours in order to be eligible.

Postbaccalaureate students and previous ABRCMS presentation awardees are not eligible to submit an abstract for oral presentation.

Your eligibility is based on your enrolled education level as of November 1, 2017 and NOT your education level when you conducted your research.

Poster Presentation Schedule

Thursday, November 2
Poster Session 1 (A): 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Poster Session 2 (B): 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Friday, November 3
Poster Session 3 (C): 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Poster Session 4 (D): 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Poster Session 5 (E): 4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4
Poster Session 6 (F): 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Oral Presentation Schedule

Thursday, November 2
5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Saturday, November 4
8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Requests to present on a specific day or time due to religious, medical, or school obligations must be submitted online through the abstract submission site by September 8, 2017.

Abstract Review: Poster Presentation

Three main criteria will be considered by the review committee when reviewing abstracts for acceptance.

- A minimum of two authors in the author block (a submission with one author will result in an automatic rejection)
- Demonstration of a scientific problem (submissions must contain a hypothesis and/or statement of problem, the methods/methodology used, the results, and a conclusion)
- Quality of written content

Abstracts must contain ALL of the required components and abide by the guidelines listed on page 4 to be considered for acceptance.

Abstract Review: Oral Presentation

The top 120 oral abstracts will be selected for oral presentations. If an abstract is accepted into the conference, but not selected for oral presentation, that abstract is automatically assigned to a poster presentation.

All abstracts submitted for oral presentation will be reviewed first for acceptance into the conference under the criteria for poster presentations. If accepted into the conference, the abstract will then be reviewed for oral presentation using the following criteria:

- Validity of scientific project
- Originality and innovation
- Approach to problem solving
- Organization and clarity
- Conciseness

All review decisions are final. There is no appeals process or opportunity to resubmit once an abstract is rejected.

Call for Abstract Reviewers & Judges

ABRCMS invites postdoctoral scientists, faculty members, and program directors to volunteer as abstract reviewers and on-site judges for ABRCMS 2017. Judges must be active researchers in one of the 12 scientific disciplines represented at the conference. Travel awards are available for eligible volunteers: visit http://www.abrcms.org/ for more information.
Required Abstract Components and Guidelines

Abstracts must follow these rules and guidelines in order to be considered for acceptance into the conference:

- All submissions must be received through the online abstract submission site by 11:59 p.m. PDT on September 8. Late submissions nor email and paper submissions will be accepted.

- Only ONE abstract submission, poster or oral, is acceptable per student. If a student is listed as the presenting author on more than one abstract, all abstracts associated with the student will be automatically rejected.

- Abstracts must contain (1) at least two authors in the author block, (2) a hypothesis or statement about the problem under investigation, (3) a statement of the experimental methods/methodology used, (4) essential results provided in summary form (even if preliminary), and (5) a conclusion that explains how the work contributes to the hypothesis or statement of problem. Abstracts missing any of the items above will be rejected.

- Students must obtain permission from their research advisors, co-authors, and program directors before submitting an abstract.

- Students working in the same lab must independently submit original abstracts. Identical abstracts submitted by different students will be automatically rejected.

- Only one student, the individual listed first in the author block, can present the abstract.

- Citations, tables, or keywords are not allowed in the abstract text and will be removed.

- Work must be proofread prior to submission. ABRCMS staff will not edit abstracts.

- Abstracts that show a lack of care or quality control, as evidenced by grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and/or typographical errors, are reviewed less favorably.

- Research proposals are not acceptable.

- Changes can only be made to an abstract by returning to the submission site before the abstract submission deadline of 11:59 p.m. PDT on September 8. After September 8, changes can’t be made to an abstract.

- One hundred and twenty (120) oral presentations slots are available at ABRCMS 2017. If an abstract is accepted into the conference, but not into the top 120 slots, it will be assigned a poster presentation.

- All presentations will be judged.

- Postbaccalaureates and previous ABRCMS poster or oral presentation awardees are ineligible to receive awards. They can only submit abstracts for poster presentations.

- Community college students who have not completed 30 credit hours, undergraduate freshman, graduate students and postdoctoral scientists are ineligible to submit abstracts. However, they are encouraged to attend the conference.
Withdrawing an Abstract

Prior to the abstract submission deadline of 11:59 p.m. PDT on September 8, a submitter can withdraw his or her abstract by returning to the submission site. If a situation arises that requires an abstract to be withdrawn after the submission deadline, notification must be e-mailed to abrcms@asmusa.org immediately. All accepted abstracts not being presented at the conference must be withdrawn by the abstract withdrawal deadline of October 2. Failure to withdraw an abstract will result in not being eligible to participate in next year’s judging program.

eNotifications

eNotifications will be e-mailed by Monday, September 25. Once an abstract has been submitted, the only means of communication will be via e-mail. Therefore, it is very important that a valid and current e-mail address be on record. All authors listed on the abstract and for whom correct e-mail addresses have been provided, including the research advisor and program director (if applicable), will be sent an e-mail containing the abstract eNotification. It is the responsibility of the presenting author to inform other individuals of the abstract status.

Poster and Oral Presentation Awards

Presentation awards will be given at the closing banquet to the top community college and undergraduate presenters in each of the 12 scientific disciplines. Judges will be assigned to each community college, undergraduate and postbaccalaureate presentation and will evaluate the presentation based on the provided rubric.

Only community college students and undergraduates with accepted abstracts are eligible to participate in the awards program. Presentations given by postbaccalaureates and previous ABRCMS presentation awardees will be judged but are not eligible to receive awards.

Family/Guest Presentation Pass

Accepted student presenters are encouraged to bring family members and/or guests to attend their assigned presentation session. Guest passes are available at no cost to the guest and give access to the presentation session only. Students must be accepted to present and registered to attend the conference in order for a guest to request a guest pass. Contact abrcms@asmusa.org for more information.

Students with Disabilities

Presenters who have disabilities should contact Leah Gibbons, lgibbons@asmusa.org, immediately upon learning of their abstracts’ acceptance to the conference in order to ensure all their required presentation needs are met.
Scientific Disciplines and Sub-disciplines

Although ABRCMS emphasizes interdisciplinary science, to manage the large number of student presentations, all abstracts must align with a single scientific discipline. When submitting an abstract, select the discipline and corresponding sub-discipline that best describes the research. The discipline selected will be used to assign the abstract to appropriate reviewers and on-site judges.

1. **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**
   a. **Biochemistry** - The study of molecules and the cellular processes in which they participate in living organisms.
   b. **Biomolecules** - The study of any organic molecule that is an essential part of a living organism.
   c. **Chemical Biology** - The study of biological processes using chemical strategies, particularly organic synthesis.
   d. **Genomics** - The study of mapping, sequencing, and analyzing the genetic composition of organisms, directed at an understanding of the complete genome and how it is organized and expressed.
   e. **Proteomics** - The study of the protein composition of cells, including protein content, protein modifications, protein-protein interaction, and protein expression during development or changing environmental conditions, generally using high-throughput approaches.
   f. **Structural Biology** - The study of the three-dimensional architectures of biological macromolecules—particularly proteins and nucleic acid—and how their architectures confer their specialized functions.

2. **Cancer Biology**
   a. **Cancer Biology** - The study of irregularities and uncontrollable growth of individual cells, tissue, or organs in any organisms.

3. **Cell Biology**
   a. **Cell Biology** - The study of cells; their physiological properties; their structure; the organelles they contain; their interactions with their environment; and their life cycles, division, and death.
   b. **Molecular Imaging** - The study that seeks to exploit an increased and enhanced understanding of the molecular basis of disease through the design of novel imaging probes to specific molecular targets.
   c. **Plant Biology** - The study of plant life involving every aspect of the environment and interactions such that plants may exist in their natural or adapted states.

4. **Chemistry**
   a. **Analytical Chemistry** - The study of the chemical composition of natural and artificial materials, and the development of tools to elucidate such compositions.
   b. **Environmental Chemistry** - The study of the chemical and biochemical phenomena that occur in air, soil, and water environments and the effect of human activity on these.
   c. **Inorganic Chemistry** - The study of the properties and behavior of inorganic compounds.
   d. **Organic Chemistry** - The study of the structure, properties, composition, reactions, and preparation (by synthesis or by other means) of chemical compounds consisting primarily of carbon and hydrogen, but which may contain any number of other elements.
   e. **Pharmaceutical Chemistry** - The study of the design, synthesis, and development of pharmaceutical drugs.
   f. **Physical Chemistry** - The study of the application of physics to macroscopic, microscopic, atomic, subatomic, and particulate phenomena in chemical systems within the field of chemistry that traditionally uses the principles, practices, and concepts of thermodynamics, quantum chemistry, statistical mechanics, and kinetics.

5. **Computational and Systems Biology**
   a. **Bioinformatics** - The study of the research, development, or application of computational tools and approaches for expanding the use of biological, medical, behavioral or health data, including those to acquire, store, organize, archive, analyze, or visualize such data.
   b. **Computational Biology** - The study of the development and application of data-analytical and theoretical methods, mathematical modeling and computational simulation techniques to the study of biological, behavioral, and social systems.
   c. **Computer Sciences** - The study of the feasibility, structure, expression, and mechanization of the methodical processes (or algorithms) that underlie the acquisition, processing, storage, and dissemination of - and access to - information.
   d. **Informatics** - The study of the application of computer and statistical techniques to the collection, classification, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information.
   e. **Systems Biology** - The study of biological systems that involves the complex integration, interactions, and modeling of key elements such as DNA, RNA, proteins, cells, and biochemical reactions with respect to one another.

6. **Developmental Biology and Genetics**
   a. **Developmental Biology** - The study of the processes by which organisms grow and develop; it encompasses genetics, cell fate specification, differentiation, and morphogenesis as well as the molecular analysis of tissue and organ system anatomy.
   b. **Evolution and Developmental Biology** - The study of the relationship(s) between the evolution and development of an organism or group of organisms; it encompasses genetic, molecular, paleontological, population, and molecular analyses, as well as theoretical (mathematical) and ecological analyses as they relate to organismal development and evolution.
   c. **Genetics** - The study of the inheritance of genes and the traits they cause, as well as the behavior of chromosomes in cell division and reproduction.
7. **Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics**
   a. **Bioengineering** - The study of the application of the principles of engineering to the fields of biology and medicine, as in the development of aids or replacements for defective or missing body organs.
   b. **Biomedical Engineering** - The coordinated and cross-disciplinary study and advancement of Engineering, Biology, and Medicine to foster human health and well-being.
   c. **Biophysics** - The study dealing with the forces that act on living cells of the body, the relationship between the biologic behavior of living structures, the physical influences to which they are subjected, and the physics of vital processes and phenomena.
   d. **Material Sciences** - The study involving the properties of matter and its applications to various areas of science and engineering.
   e. **Mathematics** - The study of the measurement, relationships, space configurations, transformations, generalizations, and overall properties of quantities and sets based on numeration and symbols.
   f. **Nanotechnology** - The study of applied science and technology whose unifying theme is the control of matter on the atomic and molecular scale, normally 1 to 100 nanometers, and the fabrication of devices with critical dimensions that lie within that range.

8. **Immunology**
   a. **Basic Immunology** - The study of all aspects of the immune system in all organisms. It deals with the physiological functioning of the immune system in states of both health and disease; malfunctions of the immune system in immunological disorders; and the physical, chemical, and physiological characteristics of the components of the immune system in vitro, in situ, and in vivo.
   b. **Host Responses** - The study of the immune response to infectious agents, or to diseases driven by the immune system. It deals with the physiological functioning of the immune system in response to bacterial, viral, parasitic or fungal infection; or to inflammatory diseases, in vitro, in situ, ex vivo and in vivo.

9. **Microbiology**
   a. **Bacteriology** - The study of prokaryotes, including bacteria and archaea.
   b. **Environmental Microbiology** - The study of the function and diversity of microbes in their natural environments; it includes the study of microbial ecology, microbially mediated nutrient cycling, geomicrobiology, microbial diversity, and bioremediation.
   c. **Microbial Physiology** - The study of the biology and function of microorganisms. It includes but is not limited to information on metabolic pathways, functional genomics, microbial growth, and microbial cell structure.
   d. **Mycology** - The study of fungi, their genetic and biochemical properties, their taxonomy, and their use and dangers to humans.
   e. **Parasitology** - The study of parasitic protozoa and helminthic worms, their hosts, and the relationship between them.
   f. **Virology** - The study of biological viruses and virus-like agents, including their structure and classification, their ways to infect and exploit cells for virus reproduction, the diseases they cause, the techniques to isolate and culture them, and their potential uses in research and therapy.

10. **Neuroscience**
    a. **Neurobiology** - The study of cells of the nervous system and the organization of the cells into functional circuits that process information and mediate behavior.
    b. **Neuroscience** - The study of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and neurons, in order to advance the understanding of human thought, emotion, and behavior.
    c. **Psychobiology** - The study of the interrelationship of the mental processes and the anatomy and physiology of the individual or psychology as investigated by biological methods.

11. **Physiology**
    a. **Anatomy** - The study of the shape and structure of organisms and their parts. The bodily structure of a plant or an animal or any of its parts.
    b. **Endocrinology** - The study of the glands and hormones of the body and their related disorders.
    c. **Nutrition** - The study of food and nourishment, especially the process by which a living organism assimilates food and uses it for growth and replacement of tissues.
    d. **Pharmacology** - The study of drugs, including their composition, uses, and effects.
    e. **Physiology** - The study of the functions of living organisms and their parts.
    f. **Toxicology** - The study of the adverse effects of chemical, physical, or biological agents on living organisms and the ecosystem, including the prevention and amelioration of such adverse effects.

12. **Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health**
    a. **Anthropology** - The study of all human beings across times and places and with all dimensions of humanity (evolutionary, biophysical, sociopolitical, economic, cultural, linguistic, psychological, etc.). Medical anthropology examines the ways in which culture and society are organized around or influenced by issues of health, health care, and related issues.
    b. **Psychology** - The study of the mind and behavior. The discipline embraces all aspects of the human experience from the functions of the brain to the actions of nations, and from child development to care for the aged.
    c. **Public Health and Epidemiology/Biostatistics** - Public Health is the study of individuals, communities, activities, and programs to promote health locally and globally, to prevent disease, injury, and premature death, and to assure conditions in which people can safe and healthy. Epidemiology studies the incidence, distribution, and control of diseases and other health related factors. Biostatistics utilizes statistical methods and techniques to examine issues in health-related sciences.
    d. **Sociology** - The study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.
Understanding Self-Efficacy and Well-Being in Patients with Schizophrenia

Denisse Tiznado; Brent Mausbach, Ph.D.; and Veronica Cardenas, Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA

Quality of life in patients with schizophrenia can be adversely affected by factors such as impaired cognitive functioning and other symptoms. However, positive intrapersonal characteristics may offset these factors and improve their well-being. Therefore, identifying positive psychological resource factors is crucial, particularly those that may improve quality of life. This study had two specific aims: 1) to examine the relationship between self-efficacy and well-being, and 2) examine psychosocial factors that are associated with increased self-efficacy. Participants were 62 middle-aged or older participants (Mean age= 50.4, SD= 6.2), with a DSM-IV chart diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. Self-efficacy was measured using the Revised Self-efficacy Scale (RSES). Participants' perceived well-being was measured using the Recovery Assessment Scale (RAS). Factors we anticipated would be associated with self-efficacy were: a) Behavioral Activation, measured using the Behavioral Activation for Depression Scale (BADS), this scale assesses participants' engagement in structured activities b) depression, measured using the Calgary Depression Scale (CDS) c) social contact, measured using the Lehman Quality of Life Index (QOLI). This scale assesses the frequency with which participants did things with friends, such as attended events outside the home or talked on the phone, etc. We first examined correlations between scores on the self-efficacy scale and those measuring well-being. Significant correlations were found between social self-efficacy and total RAS scores, r(60) = .63, p < .001. For the RAS sub-scales, we found significant correlations with personal confidence and hope, r(60) = .62, p < .001, willingness to ask for help, r(60) = .004, goal and success orientation, r(60) = .54, p < .001, reliance on others, r(60) = .53, p < .001, and not feeling dominated by symptoms, r(60)=.48, p < .001. A simultaneous multiple linear regression was then performed. For this analysis, social self-efficacy was the criterion variable, and BA, social contact, and depression were the predictor variables. The model including all variables accounted for 32.3% of the variance in social self-efficacy, R² = .323, F(3,54) = 10.06, p < .001. Significant predictor variables included BA (β = .277, p = .019), social contact (β = .282, p = .016), and depression (β = -.341, p = .003). Participants' self-efficacy is associated with greater well-being. Also, greater behavioral activation, greater social contact and less depression significantly predict high levels of social self-efficacy. Our data are correlational; therefore, caution should be used when interpreting these effects. However, increasing behavioral activation and social contact via psychosocial interventions may help to increase social self-efficacy and improve quality of life in patients with psychosis.
Travel Awards
Student and non-student travel awards are available for ABRCMS 2017. Visit bit.ly/abtrave... for more information.

ABRCMS Student Travel Award
Application Deadline: Friday, August 25, 2017
Up to 500 travel awards (full and partial) are available for full-time community college students, undergraduates and postbaccalaureates accepted to present at ABRCMS 2017. The full travel award provides conference registration, housing, airfare and a travel subsidy, while the partial award covers conference registration and/or housing. All applications will be reviewed and evaluated using the following criteria: (1) academic achievement; (2) experience conducting independent work; (3) interest in STEM; and (4) motivation to attend ABRCMS.

Eligibility: ABRCMS Student Travel Award
- Must be full-time matriculated undergraduate or community college student at an accredited U.S. institution of higher education or a postbaccalaureate student who fulfills at least ONE of the following characteristics:
  - From an underrepresented/underserved ethnicity/race (groups include Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders), or
  - Currently enrolled at a community college and completed at least 30 credit hours, or
  - First generation college student, or
  - Non-traditional student (e.g. beginning post-secondary education at or after age 21, full-time employment, having dependents, taking longer than 6 years to complete a degree), or
  - U.S. military veteran, or
  - Individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, or
  - From a disadvantaged background (e.g. family below low-income threshold or an educational environment that prevented individual from obtaining knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident, and
- Must be accepted to present a poster or oral presentation at ABRCMS 2017, and
- Cannot belong to any NIH/NIGMS funded programs, and
- Cannot be a previous ABRCMS presenter

ABRCMS Judge Travel Award
Application Deadline: Thursday, July 20, 2017
Are you passionate about helping the next generation of STEM students succeed? Apply for the ABRCMS Judge Travel Award. The award package includes conference registration, housing, airfare and a travel subsidy. If you plan on applying for the award, please do not book your travel, hotel, or pay for your registration until you receive your official notification from ABRCMS. Travel/hotel booked outside of the ABRCMS travel agency will not be reimbursed.

Eligibility: ABRCMS Judge Travel Award
- Active researcher in one of the twelve scientific disciplines represented at the conference, and
- Postdoctoral scientist or research faculty member, and
- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident, and
- Review applicants for the ABRCMS Student Travel Award August 30-September 6, and
- Attend the pre-conference Judges’ Orientation Webinar held in October, and
- Attend the on-site Judges’ Meeting held on Thursday, November 2 @ 8:00 a.m., and
- Judge all poster and oral sessions scheduled throughout the conference (must arrive on Wednesday, November 1 and stay until 2 pm on Saturday, November 4).

Federal Agency employees cannot receive any funding or compensation (complimentary travel, hotel or registration) from ABRCMS and therefore are not eligible to apply for the Judge Travel Award. Individuals currently receiving funding from one of these NIH funded programs, are not eligible to apply - RISE, MARC U-STAR, BRIDGES-BAC, BRIDGES-DOC, IMSD, PREP, SCORE, NARCH, IRACDA, BUILD and NRMN.

New and returning judges are eligible to apply. Returning judges are only eligible to receive conference registration and/or housing.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can students submit more than one abstract?

A: No, if a student is listed as the presenting author on more than one abstract, all abstracts associated with the student will be automatically rejected. Students must decide between submitting an abstract for poster or oral presentation. If an abstract is accepted into the conference but is not selected for oral presentation, that abstract is automatically assigned to a poster presentation.

Q: Can previous ABRCMS poster or oral presentation awardees submit an abstract?

A: Yes, previous ABRCMS presentation awardees can submit an abstract for poster presentation if they meet all of the eligibility requirements. However, previous presentation awardees are not eligible to receive awards.

Q: Should the presenting author be the submitter of the abstract?

A: Yes, all communication will be sent directly to the presenting author.

Q: Can a student request to present on a particular day and time?

A: Yes, but only if a student has a justified reason (religious, school, or medical conflict) that prevents him or her from presenting on a particular day or time. If so, the student must indicate this request when submitting the abstract.

Q: The “review my work” page states that the abstract is complete. Does this mean the abstract has been accepted?

A: No, after the September 8 deadline, all abstracts will be reviewed. By September 25, students will be notified via e-mail if their abstract has been accepted into the conference.

Q: How will a student receive notification?

A: All abstract notifications will be sent via e-mail by September 25. eNotifications will be sent to all authors listed in the author block, including the research advisor and program director (if applicable).

Q: I am a presenting student with a disability. Who should I contact?

A: Contact Leah Gibbons, lgibbons@asmusa.org, upon learning your abstract has been accepted into the conference, to discuss the aids you require to make your presentation.

Q: If an abstract is rejected, can a student address reviewer concerns and ask for a new review?

A: No, abstract rejections are final. If a student prepares an abstract that follows the rules and guidelines presented in this call for abstracts, then the abstract stands an excellent chance of being accepted.

Q: If an abstract is accepted, is the student registered for the conference?

A: No, all attendees must register separately to attend the conference. An acceptance notification does not equate to free registration. The discount registration deadline is October 10. Registration information can be found at the conference website, www.abrcms.org.

Q: What is the deadline for withdrawing an abstract without penalty?

A: The abstract withdrawal deadline is October 2. Prior to the submission deadline, a student can withdraw his or her abstract by returning to the abstract submission site and selecting the “delete this submission” button. After the submission deadline, students must e-mail abrcms@asmusa.org immediately to request that an abstract be withdrawn from the conference.

Q: Are travel awards available to students?

A: Yes, two types of travel awards are available, the ABRCMS Student Travel Award and the FASEB MARC Travel Award. Awards are available to community college students, undergraduates and postbaccalaureates accepted to give a presentation at the conference. Applications are required.

Q: Which students are eligible for presentation awards?

A: To be eligible for an award, a participant must be a community college student or undergraduate who has an abstract accepted for presentation at ABRCMS and who has not previously won an ABRCMS presentation award. Postbaccalaureate students are not eligible to receive awards.

Q: Can family members or friends attend my presentation?

A: Yes, family members and friends are allowed to request a guest pass at no cost. The guest pass is only valid for the requested presentation session. Contact abrcms@asmusa.org for more information.

Q: Are child care services available at ABRCMS?

A: Yes, ABRCMS supports a family friendly meeting and provides childcare support for registered attendees, if sufficient interest is indicated. Fees are associated with this service. Please indicate your interest during the conference registration process.
“From the networking, to the scientific sessions, to the exhibits, to being able to present my research, ABRCMS has helped to make my zeal for science grow even more. Being able to personally interact with exhibitors gave me a serious advantage in applying for summer programs. Talking to various faculty members during meals also allowed me to make connections at universities I wouldn’t have had a connection with otherwise.”

“My experience presenting this research at ABRCMS was indispensable. ABRCMS allowed me to hone my presenting skills as I explained and defended my research to knowledgeable students and researchers, while also allowing me to network with professors at various institutions.”

“At ABRCMS, I was able to attend poster presentations of many students from various labs in multiple disciplines. As a minority student from a minority-serving institution, it was inspiring to meet students who are like me and who share my passion for research.”
Contact Information

**Conference Program, Sponsorship, and Affiliated Events:**

Irene Hulede  
(202) 942-9295  
ihulede@asmusa.org

**Abstracts, Travel Awards, and Judges Program:**

Leah Gibbons  
(202) 942-9348  
lgibbons@asmusa.org

**Abstract Submission Technical Support:**

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support@abstractsonline.com

**ABRCMS Mailing Address:**

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1752 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

www.abrcms.org