

Northern California Undergraduate Research Symposium
April 30, 2016

The 26th Annual Northern California Undergraduate Research Symposium was hosted at Saint Mary's College of California. This symposium provides a venue for undergraduates to report out their research efforts and it has been supported by the California and Santa Clara Valley Section's of the American Chemical Society. Educational institutions from both of the ACS local section have shared the responsibility to organize and host this symposium and educational institutions from the San Joaquin Valley Section are always invited to participate as well.

This year, the undergraduates from 12 different institutions participated and there were more than 80 student presenters. These student presenters gave 9 oral presentations and 55 posters. A few posters were presented by teams of undergraduate researchers and the research work ranged from Analytical Chemistry to synthetic Organic and Inorganic to Biochemistry and Physical Chemistry. The student researchers and their mentors along with other undergraduates were treated to a keynote presentation by Dr. Ola Saad of Genentech. The title of her presentation was "Mass Spectrometry in Biopharmaceutical Drug Development of Antibody-Drug Conjugates: an Emerging Modality of the Treatment of Cancer." Dr. Ola Saad was a past participant of this symposium and she is now a senior scientist in Mass Spectrometry at Genentech. She also gave the students some insights on Genentech's internship and post-doctoral fellow programs. After the general question and answer period of her presentation, a number of students asked follow-up questions with regard to these programs too. For the California section, the represented educational institutions were UC Berkeley, CSU-East Bay, Mills College, Saint Mary's College, Sonoma State, San Francisco State, Humboldt State and University of San Francisco. An educational institution of the Santa Clara Valley Section will host this event next year and both Santa Clara University and San Jose State were represented this year. This year only two San Joaquin Valley section educational institutions participated and they were CSU-Sacramento and CSU-Stanislaus. This broad spectrum of educational institutions participating has made this a symposium that benefits all the undergraduate chemistry and biochemistry majors so it is truly a benefit to the American Chemical Society.

The costs were absorbed by the host institution and a few ACS members at Saint Mary's College donated funds to help cover the costs of food, etc.

Submitted by Steven Bachofer