GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL GOAT CONFERENCE 2010

I. POSTER ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: All abstracts for poster presentations must be submitted via e-mail to Dr. Dahlia Jackson (e-mail address: djjackson@desu.edu) by April 15, 2010 (12:00 Midnight Pacific Standard Time). Abstracts received after the deadline will not be accepted.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

a. All abstract submissions will be reviewed for:
   i. Originality
   ii. Scientific content supported by quantitative information and references
   iii. Merit of the research
   iv. Quality of written content
   v. Compatibility with STEM topics
   vi. Adherence to guidelines and format

b. Abstracts should include the following:
   i. Hypothesis or statement of the problem
   ii. Methods or controls
   iii. Results
   iv. Conclusion/Future Research
   v. Keywords (up to 5)

III. POSTER PRESENTATION CATEGORIES

Abstracts for poster presentations can be submitted in the broad STEM categories, including:

a. Food science and safety
b. Genetics and breeding
c. Herd health management
d. Marketing and processing
e. Nutrition and pasture management
f. Parasite control and innovations
g. Reproduction and biotechnology
h. Sheep production and management
i. Technology transfer and delivery

IV. FORMAT

1. Abstracts must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word document.
2. When saving the document, please title the paper using your name and job title.
3. Pages should be single-spaced with double spacing between paragraphs.
4. Text must be in a two-column format. Columns are 3.25 inches wide, 0.5 inch space between columns.
5. Paragraphs should be aligned to the left of the margin and must be justified.
6. Font should be Times New Roman (TNR) 10 pt. plain.
7. Bold and center the title and paragraph headings.
8. Do not number pages.
9. Leave a 1-inch margin around the entire page.
10. Author’s name, job title, institution and mailing address should appear centered below the title; do not bold the information; use 10 pt. TNR. The first letter of significant words should be capitalized.
   (Example: Biochemical Characterization, Kinetic Analysis, and Immunolocalization of Rat N-acetyl β-D-glucosaminidase: An Enzyme Required for Mammalian Fertilization
11. Title should be bold and 12 pt. TNR.
   (Example: Biochemical Characterization, Kinetic Analysis, and Immunolocalization of Rat N-acetyl β-D-glucosaminidase: An Enzyme Required for Mammalian Fertilization)

V. ABSTRACT REVIEW PROCESS

The decision to accept or reject an abstract rests with the abstract judges and the committee officers conducting the peer review. Occasionally, the reviewers will decide that the abstract content, while otherwise acceptable, does not fit the interest area (poster category) to which it was submitted. In this case, the abstract is forwarded to the review committee more closely aligned to the perceived content area. Once accepted, the conference officers will group abstracts with similar themes in sessions. It is incumbent on you, the author, to accept the location of your abstract in a session as final and be prepared to present your work as scheduled. **FINAL ABSTRACT FORMAT: (A MAXIMUM OF 2,500 CHARACTERS IS PERMITTED, INCLUDING SPACES AND PUNCTUATION).**
VI. ABSTRACT REJECTION CRITERIA

It is crucial to submit an abstract that meets all requirements. Abstracts will be rejected by the reviewers for one or more of the following reasons:

a. No Hypothesis or Statement of the Problem - The abstract does not clearly indicate either the reason for conducting the research and the question being tested, or contributions of the research.

b. No Methods or Controls - The investigators failed to include methods or discuss controls.

c. No Results/Insufficient Data Presented - The investigators failed to show either evidence of results or the status or the outcome(s) of their research. Insufficient data are presented to support the presenters’ conclusion(s).

d. No Conclusion or Expected Outcomes/Future Research - The investigators failed to describe the conclusions or expected outcomes of their research with regard to their hypothesis.

e. Duplicate Abstract - The abstract contents substantively overlap with contents of another submitted abstract by the same presenter or co-presenter.

f. Abstract Not Appropriate for the National Goat Conference - The content of the abstract is not relevant to any discipline area as listed on page 2.

g. Promotional in Nature - The abstract was written to promote a specific product or procedure on behalf of a specific company or organization.

h. Poorly Written - Improper use of the English language renders the abstract incomprehensible.

i. Does Not Adhere to Guidelines.

VII. ABSTRACT ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATIONS

Once an abstract has been received by the conference staff, the most efficient means of communication and notification of status will be by e-mail. Therefore, it is very important that a valid and current e-mail address be on record for all presenting authors and faculty mentor(s) to help speed the notification process. It is incumbent on the presenting author(s) to notify the National Goat Conference organizers with changes in e-mail addresses or other contact information. If the accepted abstract will not be presented at the conference, it is incumbent on the presenting author(s) to contact the Conference staff. ACCEPTED POSTER PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS WILL BE LISTED IN THE PROGRAM (PROCEEDINGS) BOOK.
VIII. POSTER PRESENTATION DIMENSIONS REQUIREMENTS & SETUP PROCEDURES

1. Poster size may be no more than 4 feet by 4 feet (i.e., length is no more than 4 feet and the width is no more than 4 feet). Oversized posters will obscure an adjacent poster and thus be rejected.
2. All posters must be set up in the time allotted before the session, and must remain up until the session ends. Materials must then be removed promptly from the board and the area cleaned up.
3. Presenters will be assigned a specific time slot for poster presentation.
4. Presenters will forfeit the opportunity to present if they are late for their presentation.
5. Presenters are to remain by their poster during their display session, to answer questions and be judged.
6. You must provide your own push pins or any other material you may need to mount your posters. Conference staff will assist you in locating mounting board.

IX. POSTER DESIGN SUGGESTIONS & TIPS

1. Allow ample time to prepare your poster. Use a crisp, clean design and a strong title. Do not tell the entire research history. Present only enough data to support your conclusions and show the originality of the work. The best posters display a succinct statement of major conclusions at the beginning, followed by supporting text in later segments and a brief summary at the end.
2. For ease of transport, make poster elements small enough to package and carry. Be sure to pack a measuring tape and a sketch of the poster layout so you will be prepared to set up the poster quickly.
3. All posters should feature a title, your name, the name of the institution where the research was performed, and should credit others, as appropriate. The title lettering should be about 2" to 3" (5cm to 7.5cm) with subheadings 1/2" to 1" high (1.25 to 2.5 cm).
4. All lettering should be legible from about 5 feet away.
5. Text material should be approximately 24 pt.
6. Convert tabular material to graphic display, if possible.
7. Use color to add emphasis and clarity.
8. Make illustrations simple and bold. Enlarge photos to show pertinent details clearly.
9. Displayed materials should be self-explanatory, freeing you for discussion.

X. ELIGIBILITY FOR POSTER COMPETITION

There will be a poster competition that will be opened to all. Students who wish to enter the competition must meet the following guidelines:
   a. Are currently registered as an student (sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate) at a U.S. college or university
   b. Are registered as a student conference participant
   c. Have conducted research, and
   d. Have submitted an abstract proposal that has been approved for presentation at the conference

XI. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1. Poster presentation will be evaluated based on the following:
2. Quality and relevance of your abstract.
3. Content – the purpose of your research should be included and explain the reason it is scientifically interesting, and tell why you predicted your expected results. You should describe the methods you used in the investigation, and report detailed, quantitative results, which you then interpret in relation to your scientific area and your initial expectations.
4. Organization and clarity of poster (clear hypothesis; precise explanation of the research).
5. Delivery – Flow of presentation should be clear, practiced, and effective, with well-designed, legible visuals supporting and illuminating your points.
6. Eye contact and ability to respond to questions relative to the research.
7. Professional appearance.
SAMPLE ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT TITLE

Biochemical Characterization, Kinetic Analysis, and Immunolocalization of Rat N-acetyl β-D-glucosaminidase: An Enzyme Required for Mammalian Fertilization

PRESENTER(S) (FIRST OR PRIMARY AUTHOR, ACADEMIC INSTITUTION; FACULTY ADVISOR/MENTOR, ACADEMIC INSTITUTION; OTHER CONTRIBUTORS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS)


ABSTRACT TEXT (a maximum of 2,500 characters including spaces)

The activity of N-acetyl-β-D-glucosaminidase (EC. 3.2.1. 52) in the mammalian male reproductive tract has been well documented. Of all mammalian tissues surveyed to date, the epididymal organ of the mammalian male reproductive tract exhibits the highest activity of this enzyme. Previous studies have demonstrated that the enzyme is found on the surface of rat sperm cells and facilitates sperm penetration through the zona pellucida (ZP), a carbohydrate-containing cellular matrix that surrounds the egg. The present study was undertaken to isolate and kinetically characterize the enzyme from the testis and various regions of the epididymis, and to immunolocalize the enzyme on the surface of sperm cells using polyclonal antibodies generated against a purified preparation of the enzyme to test the hypothesis that enzyme remains associated with the sperm surface after ejaculation into the female reproductive tract. The kinetic parameters, Km, Vmax, and Kcat were estimated by Lineweaver-Burk and Direct Linear plots. Indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) studies were used to localize the enzyme on the surface of sperm cells. The Km, Vmax, and Kcat values for the testicular enzyme was 1.33 mM, 4.2 x 10^-7 mM/min, 2.02 min^-1, respectively. In contrast, the Km, Vmax, and Kcat values were significantly different for the epididymal enzyme. For example, the Km, Vmax, and Kcat values for the enzyme associated with the caudal region of the epididymis were 0.52 mM, 5.0 x 10^-6 mM/min, and 973 min^-1, respectively. IIF labeling revealed that the enzyme is redistributed primarily over the head region of sperm cells as they mature in the epididymis and demonstrated that the enzyme remains associated on the head region of sperm cells up to six hours after ejaculation and being deposited into the female reproductive tract. These data indicate that the enzyme becomes more active and migrates to the head region as sperm cells mature in the epididymis and provides evidence to support the hypothesis that the enzyme remains associated with the sperm cell even after being deposited in the female reproductive tract [This study was supported, in part, by a grant from NSF/AAAS awarded to Dr. John Doe* Ph.D., Director for the Center of Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences, Howard University, Washington, DC 20001].

Key words: N-acetyl-β-D-glucosaminidase, testis, sperm cells