



South Eastern Section  
Institute of Food Technologists

## Graduate Student Poster Competition

Student Poster Competition is continued at SEIFT Spring Meeting and Student Recognition. This year, the competition encourages graduate and undergraduate students to present their original research, which could be later published in peer-reviewed journals. All accepted posters will be presented at Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, AL during the Spring Meeting. A poster is a method of presenting your research to an audience in a visual format. The purpose of the poster competition is to:

- Set a platform for the up-and-coming food scientists to present their research work.
- Provide the opportunity for the presenter and the audience to talk with one another.
- Encourage and stimulate interest in independent undergraduate and graduate research in the
- area of food science and technology.
- Provide an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to organize and present their original research through poster presentations.
- Provide an opportunity for networking within the section for students as well as members of industry and academia.

### **Instructions & Guidelines for Poster Presentation**

#### **Eligibility**

- This competition is open to all IFT student members (graduates and undergraduates) enrolled in universities within the section. Work must have been done individually by the student.
- The abstract submission deadline for the poster competition will be April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023; hence all are requested to submit their abstracts well in advance.

- Abstracts must not exceed three hundred (300) words in length, and should include the:
  - study objective, methodology, results, significance, and implications of the results.
  - The data presented must not be published before the 2023 Spring meeting.
  
- A maximum of five pertinent references less than 5 years old must be included. References are not included in the word count and must follow the Journal of Food Science citation style
  
- Two versions of the abstract must be submitted. One must include the paper title, as well as the name and address of the author. The second must only include the paper title. No professors' names may appear as a co-author.

### **Judging Criteria**

The judgment will be done by Board of Jury of at least three IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government.

- Abstract Judging Criteria Points (100 total)
  - Adherence to rules of competition 5
  - Presentation of research importance and relevance 20
  - Explanation of objectives and background 15
  - Presentation and explanation of experimental methodology 15
  - Presentation and explanation of results 15
  - Explanation and soundness of conclusions 15
  - Professionalism, organization, and style 15

### **ABSTRACT & POSTER PRESENTATION**

- Poster size: Not to exceed 48" x 48" (4 ft. x 4 ft.)
- Abstract and poster presentations will be judged based on the following criteria:
- The abstracts and posters MUST address the following sections:
  - Justification
  - Objective
  - Methods
  - Results

- Significance and implications of your research to the food science field
- References (maximum 5)
- Do not include credits or grant support.

### **Poster Organization**

- Organize your poster into subdivisions, space your information proportionally: divide your poster either horizontally or vertically into sections (see above) and place your materials within those spaces.
- Choose colors carefully and pay attention to contrast.
- Cropping, Margins and Spacing: All edges and margins should be straight and even. Do not overcrowd the space and be attentive to balance from top to bottom and from the side margins. Organize your elements into columns.
- White space: (the area not covered with text or graphics): Not too much (or the viewer's eye will wander). Not too little (or you will confuse and overwhelm your viewer)

### **Poster Presentation Judging Criteria** Points (50 total)

- Organization and presentation of content 25
- Professional and scholarship of presentation 15
- Ability to answer judges' questions 10.
- When the competition is being conducted, each participant should be available to answer all questions from the judges.
- You will be given about 5 minutes to present your poster including questions and answers. Judges may pose questions during the evaluation of the poster.
- The judge's decision will be final, and no clarification will be given.

### **Visuals and Text**

- Present numerical data in the form of graphs, rather than tables (graphs make trends in the data much more evident). If data must be presented in table-form, Keep it Simple.
- Visuals should be simple and bold.
- Avoid acronyms and extensive mathematical notations as much as possible.
- Avoid submitting compactly packed, high word-count posters.
- Text should be readable from five feet distance.
- The selection of the winner will be based on:

- The clarity of poster and oral presentation
- Your overall responses to the questions of the judges and the completeness of work

### **Poster Categories**

1. Food Consumption, Dietary Patterns, Diets
2. Nutrition
3. Food Processing
4. Food Safety
5. Sensory and Consumer Sciences
6. Education, Extension and Outreach

### **Abstract and Poster Judging Criteria Checklist**

1. Poster Quality
  - i. Is the message clear?
  - ii. Is the poster attractive and professionally prepared?
  - iii. Does the poster generate interest in the concept without verbal explanation?
  - iv. Did the poster adhere to submission guidelines?
2. Presentation Quality
  - i. Is the poster informing or persuading?
  - ii. Were the presenters convincing, knowledgeable, in command of the situation and on top of the information?
  - iii. Did the presenter provide enough information and explanation to effectively convey their ideas?
3. Professional Presence
  - i. Did the presenter conduct him/herself in a professional manner?
4. Judges' Impressions
  - i. Why should a judge care about this proposal?
5. Intangible or WOW factor
  - ii. Did the presenter and poster leave a lasting impression?
6. Overall
  - i. Are the grammar and punctuation in your abstract and poster, correct?

- ii. Did you proofread your abstract and poster very carefully for formatting, spelling, and grammar to avoid errors before submission?