Undergraduate Research Competition

Please read these rules carefully, as many changes have been made to facilitate the competition during a pandemic. These may be different procedures than recent years.

Purpose:

1. To encourage and stimulate interest in independent undergraduate research in the area
of food science and technology.
2. To provide an opportunity for undergraduates to organize and present their original
research through oral and poster presentations.
3. To provide an opportunity for networking within IFTSA for undergraduate students as well as members of industry and academia.

Eligibility:

Any student member of IFT, as of March 1, 2021, who is an undergraduate student prior to July 1st, 2021, is eligible to compete. Work must have been done individually by an undergraduate. A signed letter from the Department Head or a professor verifying the originality of the student's work will be required. The letter and abstract must be submitted through the IFT.org submission portal before **March 15, 2021 at 11:59 pm, CT**.

Awards:

All finalists are given complimentary registration for the IFT annual event. A certificate will be presented to each finalist, as well as the first, second, and third place awards ($1,000, $750, and $500, respectively) during the URC awards announcement. Prize money will be delivered to the winners by mail following the annual meeting.

Competition Entry Procedures:

1. To enter the competition, students must be student members of IFT by March 1, 2021. 2. Students must submit an abstract of their research to IFT.org by **March 15, 2021, at 11:59 pm CT**. Abstracts must not exceed five hundred (500) words in length (titles not included), and should include the study objective, methodology, results, and significance and implications of results. At least five (5) pertinent references must be included. References are not included in the word count and must follow the Journal of Food Science citation style.

3. An abstract which includes the paper title, as well as the name and address of the author must be submitted (no personal or organizational information may appear in the body of the abstract). No universities' or institutions' names should be included. No professors' names may appear as a co-author. Do not use templates from any universities or institutions for the abstract.

4. A letter, signed by the student's Department Head or professor, verifying the originality of the work must be submitted to IFT.org by **March 15, 2021, at 11:59 pm**. Letters should be submitted by the student via the submission portal before this deadline.

Judging of Abstracts:

Abstracts will be judged based on the criteria below. The competition chair will rank the judge scoring. Finalists will be chosen by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government as appointed by the Competition Chair.

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

A total of six (6) finalists will be selected based on the abstract submitted. Finalists will be notified by the Competition Chair in April or May 2021 if they are selected.

*If IFT annual meeting is **virtual**:*

Poster Presentation:

Finalists will present their posters for no more than 5 min and record it as a video. Posters must not be larger than 10 MB, in PDF or ppt(x) format. Both files should be uploaded via the portal by a date set by the chair.

Poster presentations will be judged based on the criteria below. The posters may include, but are not limited to, sections detailing the purpose of the work, experimental methodology/design, results, and significance of the results. All text and images

should be with high resolution and be clearly visible from a short distance. Posters will be judged by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government. No judge may vote on research presented by a member of their institution; adjustments will be made for this factor. The judges will review all poster presentation submissions before the live oral presentation sessions, and the finalists will answer the questions for their poster during the live oral competition sessions.

Poster Presentation Judging Criteria Points (50 total)

Organization and presentation of content	25
Professionalism and scholarship of presentation	15
Ability to answer judges' questions	10

Oral Presentation:

The final live oral competition will be conducted online via Zoom. The presentation is limited to ten (10) minutes per speaker, plus an additional twenty (20) minutes to answer questions from judges. The presentation should outline the scope of the research, study methodology and design, results, and significance of the results, and will be judged based on the criteria below. Oral presentations will be judged by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government. No judge may vote on research presented by a member of their institution; adjustments will be made for this factor.

Oral Presentation Judging Criteria Points (50 total)

Presentation and explanation of research importance	10
Relevance, and significance Presentation and explanation of research methodology, results	15
Conclusions Professionalism and scholarship of presentation	15
Ability to answer judges' questions	10

*If IFT annual meeting is **in person**:*

Poster Presentation:

Finalists will present their posters during the IFT19 Annual Meeting. Posters must be smaller than the display board provided by IFT (4 ft. tall x 8 ft. wide). Poster presentations will be judged based on the criteria below. Finalists will present their research to judges, as well as other event attendees, during the 60-90 minute poster session. The posters may include, but are not limited to, sections detailing the

purpose of the work, experimental methodology/design, results, and significance of the results. All text and images should be with high resolution printed using a laser printer and be clearly visible from a short distance. Posters will be judged by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government. No judge may vote on research presented by a member of their institution; adjustments will be made for this factor

Poster Presentation Judging Criteria Points (50 total)

Organization and presentation of content	25
Professionalism and scholarship of presentation	15
Ability to answer judges' questions	10

Oral Presentation:

Finalists will present their research during the IFT Annual Meeting. The presentation is limited to ten (10) minutes per speaker, plus an additional five (5) minutes to answer questions from judges. The presentation should outline the scope of the research, study methodology and design, results, and significance of the results, and will be judged based on the criteria below. Oral presentations will be judged by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government. No judge may vote on research presented by a member of their institution; adjustments will be made for this factor.

Oral Presentation Judging Criteria Points (50 total)

Presentation and explanation of research importance	10
Relevance, and significance Presentation and explanation of research methodology, results	15
Conclusions Professionalism and scholarship of presentation	15
Ability to answer judges' questions	10

Questions regarding competition eligibility, rules, and submission of abstracts and/or verification letters should be directed to the Competition Chair (iftsa.urc@gmail.com).

The enforcement, review, and changes of these Rules and Guidelines will be the responsibility of the Chair of the competition and designated IFT Staff member. Failure to comply with any of the rules of the competition may result in disqualification.