Symposium Day 2024 – Call for Abstracts

The Twenty Eighth Annual Symposium Day at the University of Saint Joseph will be held on **Wednesday, April 17th, 2024.** Symposium Day is a day-long event that is designed to carry out the University’s mission to develop the potential of our students by offering them the opportunity to publicly demonstrate their achievements in a wide array of academic, professional and clinical studies.

We encourage undergraduate and graduate students in all schools and departments to submit abstract proposals. Faculty can ensure a high level of academic interest and performance by identifying students whose work (papers, a study or an experiment, a piece of creative writing, or another type of creative product) would be suitable for this event.

**Abstracts are due on Monday, February 26th, 2024, by 5 p.m.**

This year, abstracts will be submitted through MS Forms at the following link: [https://forms.office.com/r/4Ghi7n8Uea](https://forms.office.com/r/4Ghi7n8Uea).

Be sure to read all the instructions below before submitting an abstract. Please note that students will be required to upload the ‘Faculty Sponsor Approval Form’ (attached to the end of this document) signed by their faculty sponsor in order to submit their abstract. The link for submitting abstracts and the Faculty Sponsor Approval Form can also be found on the Symposium Day website (https://www.usj.edu/academics/academic-event-series/symposium-day/) and the Center for Student Research and Creative Activities Blackboard page.

**Instructions for Preparing and Submitting a Proposal:**
- Students should decide if they want to submit an oral presentation (12–15 min) or a poster presentation. Students giving oral presentations will be eligible for awards.
- Students should construct their abstract following the guidelines in this document. Example abstracts are included for reference.
- Students should contact their faculty sponsor to review their abstract. Please give faculty sponsors adequate time to review the abstract before the submission deadline. **FACULTY SPONSORS must sign off on student abstracts before they are submitted. Students will be required to upload the**
signed ‘Faculty Sponsor Approval Form’ at the time of submission.

- If your work requires IRB or IACUC approval, the IRB/IACUC number MUST be provided, so students should make sure to have access to that information before attempting to submit.

- Students planning to present more than one project (for example, their independent research AND a class project) must complete a separate submission for each project.

- Only ONE proposal should be submitted for each project, regardless of the number of presenters. If there are multiple students participating in a presentation, select one student to submit on behalf of the group. Include the names of all student participants in the appropriate space on the form.

- Please be sure you have thoroughly reviewed your answers to all questions before you submit. All submissions are final.

- The submitting author will be notified of their abstract status in mid-late March.

Please plan to be available for the entire symposium day so that you can present in your assigned timeslot and support colleagues by attending their presentations as well. Once all abstracts are reviewed, the schedule will be prepared and distributed in early April.

Please see below for more information on faculty sponsorship, abstract preparation, and sample abstracts. We look forward to your participation in Symposium Day 2024!

Thank you!

Chadene Tremaglio, Anisha Gupta, and Andrea Courtemanche
Symposium Day Co-Chairs 2024
symposiumday@usj.edu
Abstract Guidelines

1. Preparing Abstracts: Abstracts should be between 150 to 250 words. Longer abstracts will not be read. Sample abstracts are provided at the end of this document. Students should work with their faculty sponsors to ensure abstracts are detailed, accurate, and high quality. Abstracts should be typed and carefully proofread before submission. Abstract reviewers will be asked to rate submitted abstracts based on the following criteria. Be mindful of these criteria as you write your abstract:
   1. The appropriateness of the project title
   2. How well the abstract clearly states a hypothesis, research question, scholarly goal, or artistic intent
   3. How well the abstract effectively describes the methodology or process of the work
   4. How well the abstract presents results and/or conclusions (which may be preliminary) or how well the work achieves the artistic intent
   5. Overall rating (‘Accept’ or ‘Revisions Needed’)

2. Preparing presentations: Please review presentations carefully to make sure they are clear and well organized. Presentations should be 12 - 15 minutes in length. Students may benefit from coaching from their faculty sponsor in making oral presentations. Students are required to use a professional presentation application such as Powerpoint or Prezi.

3. Preparing Posters: Students must be present at their poster for the entire duration of their assigned poster session on Symposium Day. Students may benefit from coaching from their faculty sponsor on how to give a 2 – 3-minute overview of their work and guidance on how to answer questions. For poster printing, it is recommended that students use the standard conference size (36” x 48”) or smaller. Easels and poster board backing will be provided for all poster presenters. Posters can be printed through USJ’s IT department.

Faculty support throughout the process will result in successful student presentations on Symposium Day. Many thanks to our faculty sponsors for your help!

Examples of Student Abstracts

Title of Project: The Hundred Years War and English National Identity
Prior to the Hundred Years War (traditionally dated 1337 to 1453 C.E.), the histories of France and England were closely intertwined. In 1066, William the Conqueror crossed the English Channel from Normandy, establishing a new dynasty and French ruling class in England while still maintaining a foothold in France. The Normans eventually began to intermarry with the Anglo-Saxons, and cultural lines became blurred in England. Over the next few centuries, English monarchs had claims to large amounts of territory in France. (For example, Henry II, king of England, married Eleanor of Aquitaine and he therefore had control over the large region of Aquitaine in southeastern France.) The goal of this research is to explore and analyze the transformation of the monarchs and the people of England during the Hundred Year’s War, when they began to see themselves no longer only as supporters of a dynastic realm, but also as members of a larger collectivity, hence a nation or people. Though a sense of English national identity had already begun to form prior to the Hundred Years War, the war itself helped to forge a sense of “Englishness” that was increasingly separate from France. This emergence of Englishness can
be seen clearly through an examination of key events, such as the English monarchy’s negotiations with parliament to fund the war, the change in reasoning to fight as seen in battles such as Agincourt and the English reaction to the trial of Joan of Arc.

**Title of Project: The Impact of Aging on Lymph Node Stromal Cells**

It is well established that aging negatively impacts immunity, resulting in an inefficient response to vaccinations and infections. The development of a robust immune response requires the interaction of rare cell types at specific times. This process is orchestrated in highly organized structures called lymph nodes (LN). Stromal cells can be thought of as the infrastructure of the LN, regulating the entry, exit and locality of cells at rest and during infection. Fibroblastic reticular cells (FRCs) are the major stromal cell subset of the lymph nodes and are centrally located in the T cell areas. It is hypothesized that LN stromal cell structure and numbers will be altered in number and frequency in aged mice compared to young mice, which may contribute to age related immune impairments, and cause lymph node architectural changes. Enzymatic and mechanical digestion was used on lymph node stromal cells. Flow cytometry, and microscopy were both used to analyze the data of the stromal cells of young and aged mice (13 weeks and 19 months). The mice were infected with the influenza virus. Quantitative analysis of lymph node stromal cells by flow cytometry revealed that there are no significant differences in the number or frequency of stromal cells in young and aged lymph nodes. Interestingly, microscopic analysis revealed that aged lymph nodes have altered FRC morphology, with increased density of FRCs compared to young lymph nodes. These results are the first evidence that aging alters lymph node stromal cells.

**Title of Project: Promoting Healthy Relationships among Teens**

According to The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, teens who have experienced intimate partner violence were four to six times more likely to have been pregnant than their peers who haven’t been involved in this type of dating violence. Teen dating violence is a preventable issue that requires a coordinated and comprehensive preventive approach, especially when considering pregnant teens and teen mothers. This research project will evaluate the effectiveness of healthy relationship curriculums implemented among teens. The methods used to obtain this data are pre- and post-surveys of teens in high school who participated in the Define Your Line curriculum. In addition, data on intimate partner violence will be gathered from an agency that serves teens who experience unplanned pregnancies. This study will explore the program’s effectiveness in promoting healthy relationships, with a particular emphasis on the potential to be used with pregnant teens or teen mothers who experience intimate partner violence. This paper will also discuss recommendations in reference to pregnant teens facing unhealthy relationships.
I have approved this project, reviewed their application, and will support this student in their submission to Symposium Day.

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Faculty Name (printed)

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Faculty Name (signature)