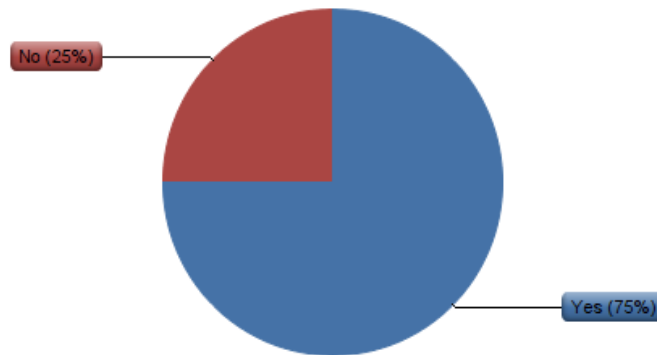


URC 2013 Evaluation Summary

1. Are you an undergraduate student?

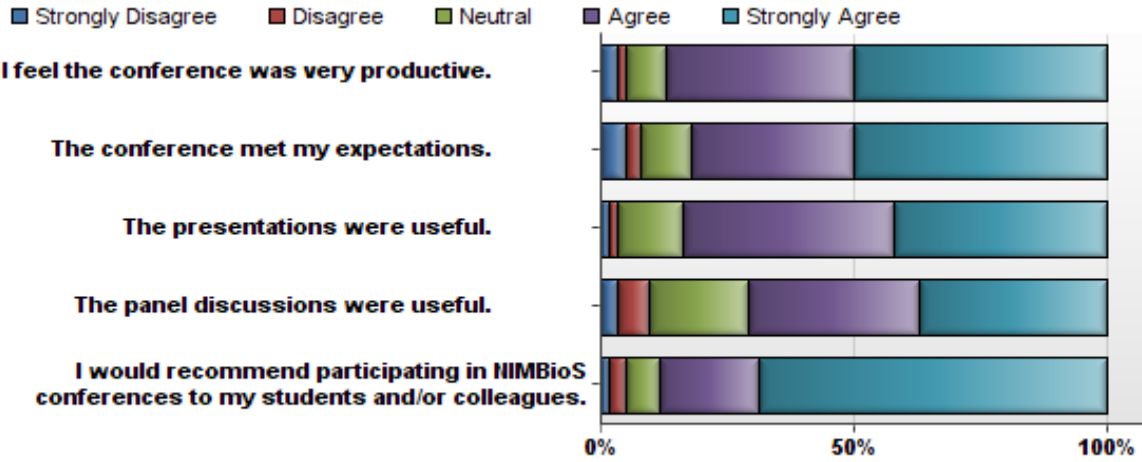


2. How did you hear about this conference?

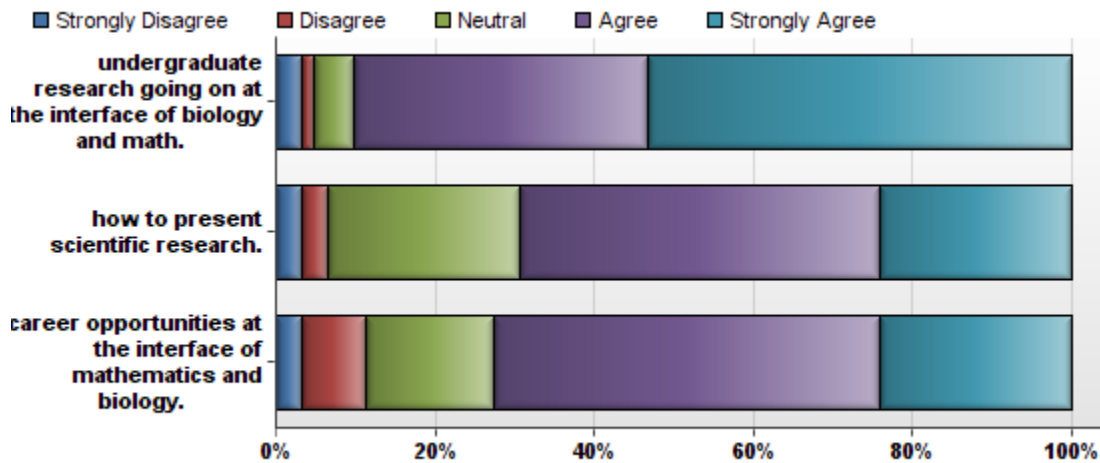
- at MBI Capstone conference this past summer
- attended last years
- Brochure sent to our math dept.
- By the Bioinformatics director form UTEP and from a guest speaker from NIMBioS.
- Email forwarded from mentor at REU
- Faculty and the Bioinformatics program at UTEP
- friends at NIMBioS
- from a friend
- From an REU, the MTBI
- From a student who had attended it previously and is a current Ph.D. student at UT.
- From my mentor Dr. Sharon Bewick
- from my PI
- From my professor
- From my research adviser, Dr. Anuj Mubayi.
- From my research mentor
- From REU at VBI
- From the NIMBioS summer internship program.
- I've attended every year of the conference.
- I am familiar with the NIMBioS institute, however a colleague of mine (Adam Siepielski) told me about this conference specifically.
- I am in a program that introduces students to different research opportunities.
- I learned about it through the undergraduate bioinformatics training program at my university.
- Internet research
- Invitation from UT professor
- I participated in a NIMBioS REU over the summer so I heard about it there from several different people.
- I participated in the conference last year.

- I received word about this conference from a colleague of my mentor.
- I was a NIMBioS REU 2013 participant.
- I was a part of the NIMBioS REU this past summer.
- I was at NIMBioS for summer research and I heard it then
- I was invited after participating in the NIMBioS REU this past summer (2013)
- I was invited by NIMBioS
- I was told about it by my Mentors
- MTBI
- my advisor at DePaul University
- My faculty research mentor at the University of California, Irvine -- Prof. John Lowengrub
- My project advisor
- My research advisors told me about it.
- My research mentor
- My thesis adviser at Princeton University.
- NIMBioS Newsletter
- NIMBioS REU
- NIMBioS REU
- NIMBioS REU
- NIMBioS Summer REU participant
- NIMBioS website
- NIMBioS website
- NIMBioS website
- NSF funded research program that I am involved with at my university
- Online
- Suzanne Lenhart
- Suzanne Lenhart
- Suzanne Lenhart.
- The Capstone Conference at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute at Ohio State University.
- Through my research adviser
- Through my research advisor
- Through my research advisor at my college
- Through my research program
- Web
- Web site
- Weekly email from the College of Computer, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland, College Park
- Wendy Caldwell

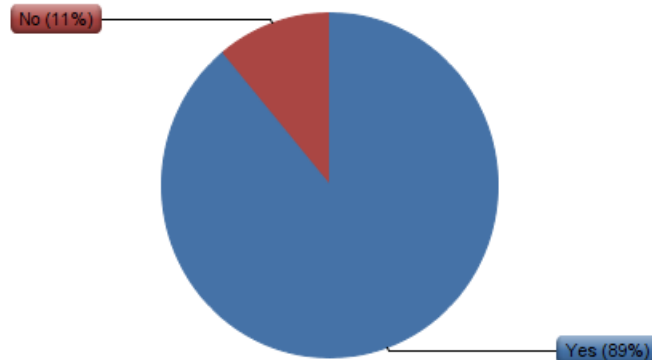
3. Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this conference:



4. Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. As a result of participating in this conference, I am more knowledgeable about:



5. Do you feel that participating in the conference helped you make connections with others within the interdisciplinary field of math and biology?



6. Comments:

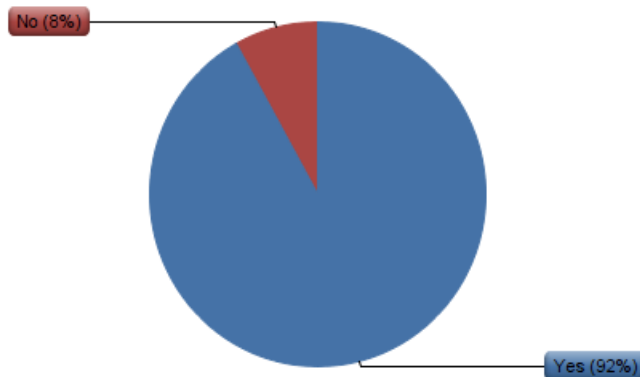
- As a faculty member attending to support my students, I enjoyed the opportunity to discuss chat with other faculty members about math bio research. However, I think it may have been slightly more productive if this session was lead or at least given some topics of discussion and moderation.
- Consider a more diverse panel. If you want to highlight careers at the interface of math and biology, 3/4 people on the panel should not be academics.
- I had a chance to meet the director of NIMBioS as well as students interested in applied math.
- I like everything NIMBioS does
- I met different people that can keep in touch if I need help.
- I think the NIMBioS conference definitely helps people to make connections with others very well. I particularly enjoyed the SET games - I met a lot of people through playing the game.
- I thought the conference committee did a wonderful job conducting the networking activity (matching game) as I got to meet a variety of wonderful and like-minded people.
- It would have if I was better at being social, I definitely talked to people though, so NIMBioS did its part in that regard, I'm just not very good at it Also the conference exceeded my expectations, but there's not really a good way to indicate that when the question is "did this conference meet your expectations?" and the only available answers are degrees of agreement
- I wish the conference was advertised more as a mathematics conference because I felt singled out as a biology major.
- The SET game was a great idea!
- This experience was wonderful because I was able to hear about other undergraduate research and make connections with other students on their way to pursuing a PhD in applied mathematics. This networking is critical!
- This is a definitely "Yes".
- very much so

7. What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the conference?

- Networking
- 2 day format with ample time for discussions
- This is hard to pick. Talks, posters, and panels all filled important purposes and complimented each other well. I enjoyed conference a lot and it is hard to pick a "most useful" aspect.
- I really liked the panel regarding how our speakers got to their positions.
- Get to hear other mathematicians and biologists collaborating, doing research all across the country.
- Career Panel/Plenary Talks
- Oral and poster presentations and meeting people during meals.
- Listening to all the undergraduate research that is done in other part of the US. Also meeting new people that have similar interests as me. Interacting with the faculty as well.
- The presentations of undergraduate students. It is good to know that the undergraduate students are actually doing completely new piece of research.
- the chance to present my work and learn about others
- Being able to present research and see what other research was happening in mathematical biology. Also, being able to meet peers interested in the same topics who are on the same career path was also wonderful. We definitely were making connections for the future!
- The panel discussions.
- Hearing from professionals in the field.
- The career panel
- The undergraduate talks and networking activity
- A chance to get feedback on my research from other researchers in the same area.
- I enjoyed seeing the many different fields contained within mathematical biology and seeing how my research compared to other research done by undergrads.
- Career panel and grad school expo
- Having the opportunity to attend student presentations and poster sessions.
- Hearing the talks
- The opportunity to both share my research and talk with other students doing interesting research at the interface of math and biology. Although these connections probably will not be lasting, it is good to be exposed to lots of different types of research (beyond what's happening at my school or at the REU programs I have attended). I also appreciated that the main speakers discussed two completely different types of mathematical biology.
- The graduate school panels and the poster presentations were great.
- getting to talk with other faculty; seeing the projects other undergraduates were working on
- Gaining presentation experience in a conference setting
- I think the panel discussions were the most useful. It was good to see the variety in the professors' experiences.
- Panel discussion, poster session, and college "table" time
- student interaction
- The invited address and the networking opportunity. Also the chance of being exposed to the most recent undergraduate work.
- Empowering undergraduates
- it was fun
- Getting feedback on presentations, hearing from mathematicians and biologists.
- Students I brought were inspired and learned a lot.
- The ability to wander from room to room and hear different kinds of talks.
- Learn how undergraduate research are conducted at other institutions
- Meeting people in the same discipline and getting exposed to more mathematical biology research
- The graduate school panel and the networking activity. Both were extremely beneficial and necessary in my mind.
- Giving a forum for students to present their work.

- Faculty networking.
- The graduate panel and just the casual interaction with other students.
- Panels
- Student presentations
- the panel and the graduate school fair were very informative and helped me to better understand how to apply to and survive grad school
- The opportunity for undergraduate researchers to exchange their research and establish connections with graduate schools; also the interdisciplinary aspect.
- New Research Topics.
- Networking with other students and the grad students as well.
- The career panels.
- I like everything NIMBioS does

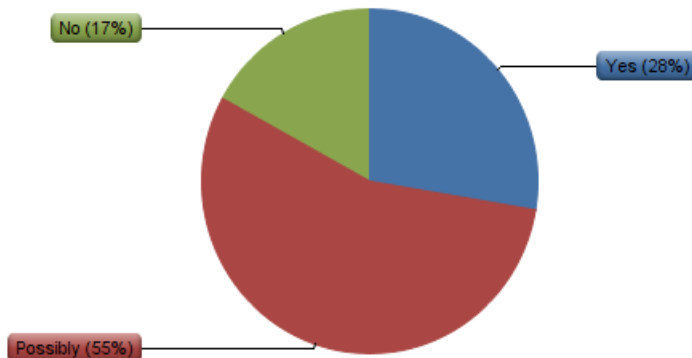
8. Do you feel the conference was successful in achieving its goal of creating a forum through which undergraduates can present research and make new connections at the interface of math and biology?



9. Comments:

- By requiring all presentations to be given by undergraduates, the conference gave undergraduates student a unique voice not heard at larger meetings like the JMM.
- The conference was great because it allowed people to attend different sessions that have projects in varying fields of mathematical biology. However, I do not believe that the 15 minute time limit for a talk was sufficient for people to discuss their entire research project.
- I wish there had been more networking after all of the talks, so that we could talk to individuals that presented on topics that we were interested in.
- There were a lot more mathematics majors than biology majors.
- Well planned, well organized...overall, an exceptional conference
- I strongly agree with this!
- I like everything NIMBioS does

10. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the conference will influence your career plans?



11. Please explain impact on career plans:

- It made me realize that I don't want to go the graduate route for a Ph.D.
- Every time I go to a conference (mathematics conference) I am more inclined to join a PhD program. My current plan is to stop at masters.
- My career plans were to get a PhD in chemistry, and that has not changed.
- I have recently found that I enjoy doing actual laboratory work in biology rather than data analysis through mathematical biology. However, the conference impressed upon me the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration.
- I would like to pursue research in the biomath field, definitely (undecided before).
- I may be interested in doing government research.
- It confirmed my decision to go to graduate school
- Learned about some more graduate programs
- It will help me in choosing a graduate school program that matches my interests.
- I felt surer of my interest to pursue research at the molecular level.
- I feel like every time I attend a conference I understand more about math and biology and feel more confident about making choice about my future
- I was reminded of my interest in experimental "wet-lab" work, in addition to my interest in computational work. This conference helped slightly shift which graduate programs I am applying to.
- After looking at the epidemiology posters, I realized that I found them really interesting and am considering going into that field.
- I know a little bit more about what it will take to get a Ph.D. or Master's degree
- I really enjoyed the main speakers talk about relating pure math (knot theory) to biology. I hadn't previously considered such applications, and I do enjoy both of those fields.
- Before the conference, I had not considered some of the career possibilities discussed in the panel. Now that I am aware of more options, I can take them into consideration when I make plans for the future.
- I would like to someday be a part of the NIMBioS team.
- As a pure math major, I have never took a serious thought on how or even if I should apply my knowledge into other fields. After hearing about Dr. Vazquez's work and continuously bothering Dr. Lenhart about career in math biology, I realized applied math also has the rigor as pure math

does. As applied math has connections with almost every aspect of our life, I am right now thinking about pursuing a career in applied math.

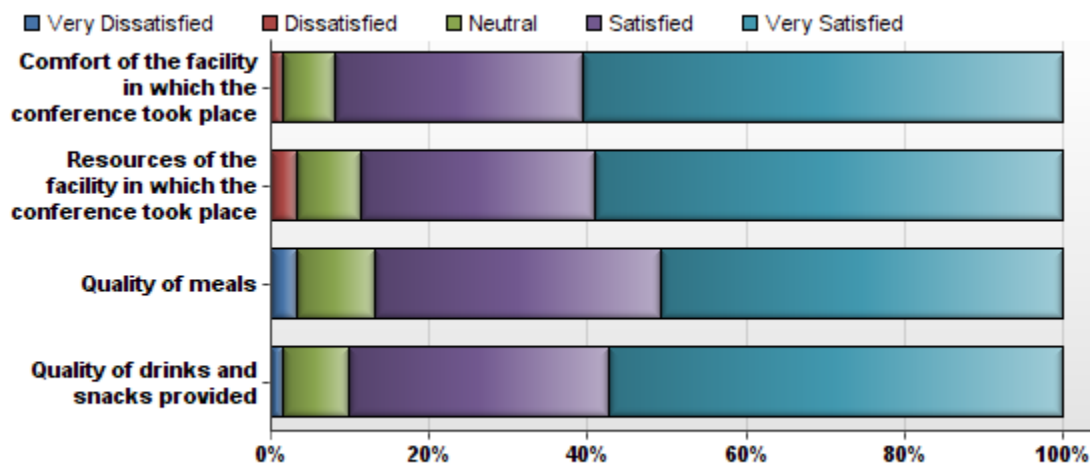
- I have no idea what my career plans are but it definitely helped me with getting more ideas so that now I have even less of an idea, to some extent academia seems fun, though
- I was given honest opinions and ideas by presenters (faculty) regarding my career plans of pursuing an MD/PhD.
- Although I will be getting an MD, I plan to do clinical research and projects using bioinformatics.
- The panel did a wonderful job of explaining how graduate level study will occur in the field and how to apply. Before this conference, I was only versed on applying to mathematics and biology graduate schools separately, not together. Thus, learning what the schools in the field are looking for and the panel's experience with their research and time in graduate school was extremely beneficial.
- Made me realize how many different areas there are in math-bio. Also made me realize how very abstract math can be applied.
- Helped with my long-term planning
- Learning how active an area of research mathematical biology is, as well as observing the diversity of projects within the field, certainly encouraged me to think about studying mathematical biology in graduate school.
- Because I am still in my early undergraduate studies, the conference helped me to consider a new curriculum, including more mathematics and bioinformatics into my studies.
- I was able to make progress on some final decisions for graduate school.
- It was good to hear from people in industry as well as academia. I plan to pursue a government career.

12. What would you change about the conference?

- Add a field trip! To the Smoky Mountains (if possible)! This would get us to know our fellow undergrads and socialize.
- Add the prizes for top three student presenters
- A list of contact with affiliation, research and educational interests may be helpful.
- Bigger graduate fair
- Everything
- have a single contact person to coordinate
- Have different seminars
- Having a speaker at dinner would be nice, someone who could talk about their current research.
- Having more panels, more opportunities to pick the brains of the experts at the conference.
- I don't have any specific suggestions.
- If there is a way to further encourages collaborations between faculty and students on future research, this would be good. It seems a lot of the focus was on research completed and less on: "I am looking for collaborators to help with X". Certainly the organizers made attempts to encourage this, and I (unfortunately) don't have any specific suggestions, but it would be nice if there were a way to facilitate this.
- include graduate students as mentors to undergrads
- Include representatives from a wider variety of graduate programs. It seemed like most were from math programs. The networking game did not seem useful. It felt slightly childish to play that sort of game. I did like talking to people though.

- I think there could be more fun activities during dinner/lunch time to help people know better about each other.
- It would have been nice to have more graduate schools present at the recruitment fair, and also to have more time for talks and presentations of research. Otherwise, the conference was great!
- I wish it was a bigger conference.
- I would advocate for longer poster sessions. The students work very hard to create a poster and 1hr is not enough to go over them. Also it would be good to have more room between the posters.
- I would allow more time for the poster presentations; one hour per group felt like a short amount of time.
- I would have liked there to be more discussion about career opportunities outside of academia.
- I would have liked to see more student presentations.
- Lack of entertainment/ways to keep the audience attentive.
- Maybe having a tour of the University of Tennessee and the NIMBioS facilities.
- More connection with prospective graduate school. Also more varied locations of research. I felt that the distribution of students presenting research wasn't very wide.
- More faculty (advisor/mentors) involvement
- More networking activities
- more of me talking, that was pretty great
- More resources for post-grad opportunities, clear intro and concluding remarks, and more feedback on research presented.
- More schools represented at the graduate school recruitment event
- More time for the panels.
- No more set. I think it may hurt more than it helps.
- no need for a graduate school fair or the "icebreaker" with the set cards
- Nothing. The timing during the month was better this year than last year, and the hotel and food was again very nice. The graduate school "fair" was quite small though, so, if possible, this should be expanded.
- Perhaps a larger graduate school presentation with a better selection
- Perhaps I'd make it easier to see more talks. I didn't like sacrificing one talk to hear a friend's.
- Put the first poster session early in the afternoon. Since it was the last thing, many people left.
- The graduate program fair may not have been applicable to many of the people there, who already have plans for their futures.
- To give more time to the poster sessions, it was a bit rushed when trying to present and when visiting other posters.

13. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the conference accommodations:



14. Please indicate any changes NIMBioS can make to improve the resources and/or accommodations available to conference participants:

- Everything was AMAZING!
- I like everything NIMBioS does
- It really was an amazing time, I think the best thing NIMBioS can do is get the word out because once you're there, it's great
- I wish the colleges that came to the conference were not all from their mathematics department.
- I wish there are some small rooms with desks for small group discussions.
- I would welcome more tea (hot water)
- more substantial snacks than cheese would have been nice
- Provide shuttle for students from hotel to University.
- Serve regular milk at breakfast please. (By the way, the desserts during the first poster sessions were amazing!)

15. Please provide any additional comments about your overall experience with the conference

- The travel award and transportation arrangements were very important to my decision to come to the conference and took a lot of the stress out of the weekend --thanks!
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate, I really enjoyed it.
- Thank you for providing the transportation to and from the airport, that was very helpful.
- Overall it is a great conference to attend. The amount of information learned did help a lot as well as the connections made with the guests. Everything was well planned. I would definitely come back.
- Overall, this was a fantastic experience. Thank you for creating this event!
- Overall, it was a very fun and interesting research conference. I probably would like to have seen more of the presentations, but other than that, a good experience.
- I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to present at my first national conference. It was an incredible event and I look forward very much to coming back next year. I had a blast!
- I was very pleased! It was a fantastic conference!
- It was good. I came back with a lot of experience about getting undergraduate students involved in research.

- It was a wonderful experience in a beautiful city. Possibly a little more direction in terms of check in/ check out/ etc. for the Crowne Plaza hotel.
- It was a great experience and very informative. I would recommend this conference to other students. I am glad that I received funding.
- I thought that the conference was very well done. I felt like it was a friendly environment and I especially enjoyed getting to talk to the other undergraduate students who attended.
- It's a wonderful conference experience! I learned a lot about the research in math-biology and had a great time knowing people in this field. The organizers are so thoughtful and they provided ground transportation to and from the airport. Overall, great conference!
- I loved the conference. Wish I were an undergraduate for another year so I could participate again!
- I like everything being local
- I had so much fun and met a lot of people I hope to continue to stay in contact with. I think it's an amazing learning experience for students to network and share their experiences in research.
- I had a great time! The best was to meet fellow students from across the country.
- I had a great time!
- I did not attend any of the talks. Only represented my inst for the purpose of recruiting during the Sunday am session. Thanks for the opportunity, Kelly was great.
- funfunfun
- As a presenter flying in from out of state, I really appreciated the ride to the hotel from the airport on the day of my arrival.