

January, 2005 – Laura Twersky, Biology

Research Tip

The *Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)* is an organization whose mission is to “support and promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship” (www.cur.org). It does this by:

1) sponsoring a research meeting every other year giving undergraduates the opportunity to present their work. The CUR’s next national conference will be hosted by DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana on June 24-27, 2006. In addition to the undergraduate research presentations, another important part of the conference includes numerous helpful workshops on such topics as, for example, funding opportunities, research responsibility and assessment, faculty development issues, development of programs promoting research and scholarship across all disciplines, institutional research symposia and journals, planning poster sessions at state capitols, and how to develop collaborations within and among institutions. The CUR’s national conference also includes a great day camp, the *CUR camp*, that keeps the children of attendees occupied in very entertaining and educational ways..

2) sponsoring an annual *Posters on the Hill* meeting where undergraduates compete for the chance to exhibit their research results on Capitol Hill. This meeting is held in April and usually has an abstract submission deadline in November. The value of the above events includes not only allowing networking/exchanging of ideas with others involved in undergraduate research projects but also provides networking opportunities with those who provide grants for research.

3) sponsoring other meetings – e.g. the *CUR Dialogues*. This year they will be held on April 17-19 in Arlington, Virginia. This meeting is “designed to bring faculty and administrators to the Washington D.C. area to interact with federal agency program officers and other grant funders” and to aid in development of grant proposal writing skills.

4) providing funding opportunities such as the *CUR Fellows Program* and *CUR Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowships*.

5) publishing the *CUR Quarterly*.

The CUR is organized into eight divisions that include biology and other natural sciences, social sciences and administration. The organization has 3,000 members representing 870 institutions. For membership and further information on the CUR see their website at www.cur.org