



Run for young life scientists, by young life scientists



Alexa Hime
(Scientific Conference Organizer)

Young Life Scientists' Symposia

The aim of the Young Life Scientists' Symposium is to give a group of young researchers the chance to experience running a scientific conference on their subject of interest for their peers. The Young Life Scientists' Symposia for 2009 consisted of two events. The first symposium was a joint event supported by the Biochemical Society, the Physiological Society, the Genetics Society and the British Pharmacological Society. This is what the organizers had to say ...

"Organizing a Young Life Scientist event for the 2009 Symposium has been a great experience, an exercise in problem solving, communication and hugely rewarding. [The] YLS Symposium offered us a unique opportunity to organize a conference specifically for scientists, like ourselves, in the early stages of our careers. It was with excitement, but also some apprehension that we accepted the challenge. However, we were quick to be offered the guiding hand of the three societies, whose support throughout was second to none. Networking, communication, budgeting and multitasking are just a few of the new and enhanced skills you certainly feel you have achieved!

"If you are thinking about applying, go for it; it is definitely a worthwhile experience giving a unique insight into running a scientific event!"

[Claire Durrant (University of Bristol, UK), from the organizing committee for 'Neurological Disorders: from Molecules to Medicine', at the Bristol Council House on 14 May 2009.]

The event incorporated the Promega UK Young Life Scientist Awards 2009 and Dr Mike Daniels, Marketing Manager Promega UK, said: "This year our aim was to take the Promega UK Young Life Scientist Awards to the next level; increasing our prize fund to £7000 (in cash and Promega products) and opening up the competition to all young life scientists within the UK, we doubled the number of applications from previous years!

"Combining the awards with the YLS Symposium was a great collaboration with the 'run by young life scientists for young life scientists' ethos genuinely representing the support both Promega, the Biochemical

Society, the Physiological Society, the Genetics Society and the British Pharmacological Society wanted to attain. The event on the day was a huge success with the judges, delegates and Promega being overwhelmed by the quality of the finalist's research. First place went to Dr Kim van der Heiden from Imperial College London, who won £2000 in cash and the equivalent in Promega products"

"We are committed to supporting the Life Science industry in the UK and in particular, the scientists of tomorrow, said Derek McCall, Managing Director of Promega UK. "Imperial College should be very proud of Dr van der Heiden's achievement. We wish her every success for the future."

A second Young Life Scientists' event was held at the University of Chester entitled 'Networking Angiogenesis: Bridging Young Researchers in the Vascular Biology Field'. Here is the organizers account of the event...

"On the day itself, we were all a little nervous, but very excited that the symposium had finally arrived. Everything went smoothly, from the morning registration to the setting up of posters and the oral presentations. We were grateful that all the speakers kept to their allocated time, a bit of a rarity at some meetings! We felt that the poster session went particularly well, with delegates visiting other posters and talking to the presenting authors. It was very rewarding to see the delegates interacting with their peers without too much apprehension. All in all, we found the symposium a very rewarding experience to have been a part of and one that we would highly recommend to other young life scientists."

[From the organizing committee: Anasuya Ramachandran (University of Oxford, Cancer Research, UK), Miriam Bazan-Peregrino (University of Oxford, UK), Chern-Ein Oon (University of Oxford, Cancer Research, UK), Clemens Thoma (University of Oxford, UK), Richard Sainson (University of Oxford, Cancer Research, UK).] ■





Young Life Scientists' Symposium

Young Life Scientists' Symposium 2010

A call to all Young Life Scientists:

Take advantage of this exciting opportunity to organize a scientific symposium on your area of research, for your peers.

Are you excited by your area of research, but frustrated by the lack of meetings taking place?

Would you like to:

- promote the latest research through a scientific conference organized by you?
- work with the Biochemical Society, The Physiological Society, and the British Pharmacological Society?
- extend your scientific network by building up new contacts and collaborations?
- get a head start on a career in research through conference organization?
- add experience to your CV?
- develop new skills?

Getting involved:

The Societies are looking for a group of PhD students or postdocs to be the key organizers of YLS2010, to take place at your chosen venue in 2010. Experienced undergraduates can also apply.

Applicants must be prepared to work in a team to organize the following:

- A themed one day Symposium with full scientific programme
- Key note speakers
- Website design
- Budget design
- Abstract reviewing
- Venue
- Marketing (helped by the societies)
- Raising sponsorship

Statement from the organizers of YLS2009:

“A lot of hard work, but definitely worth the effort! You learn so much, a real eye opener. Adds a great deal to your personal experience and gives you skills you can not learn from just working in the lab. It’s certainly a challenge but there’s a lot of support so you don’t have to go it alone”

If you are keen to participate in YLS2010 please email conferences@biochemistry.org by the closing date for proposals - 30 October 2009 with the following information:

- 1) A theme for the scientific programme and reasons why your theme would be popular (500 words max) and the names of two keynote speakers. Please note that as there are three scientific Societies involved we are ideally looking for a topic that would encompass the interests of members of all of those Societies.
- 2) The names of the YLS organizing committee members (four recommended), their email addresses and their position (e.g. second year PhD student). Please also provide details of any relevant organizational experience (e.g. of departmental seminars).

The proposals will be reviewed during November 2009 and the winning group will be informed before the end of November 2009.

To give you an idea of what you could achieve, the website for YLS2009 can be viewed at:

<http://www.younglifescientist.org/programme/programme.asp?Meeting=YLS2009Pro>

We look forward to hearing from interested Young Life Scientists.

