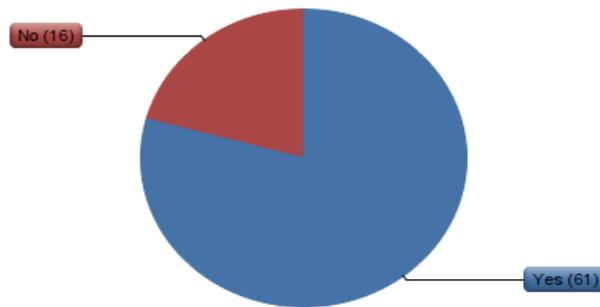


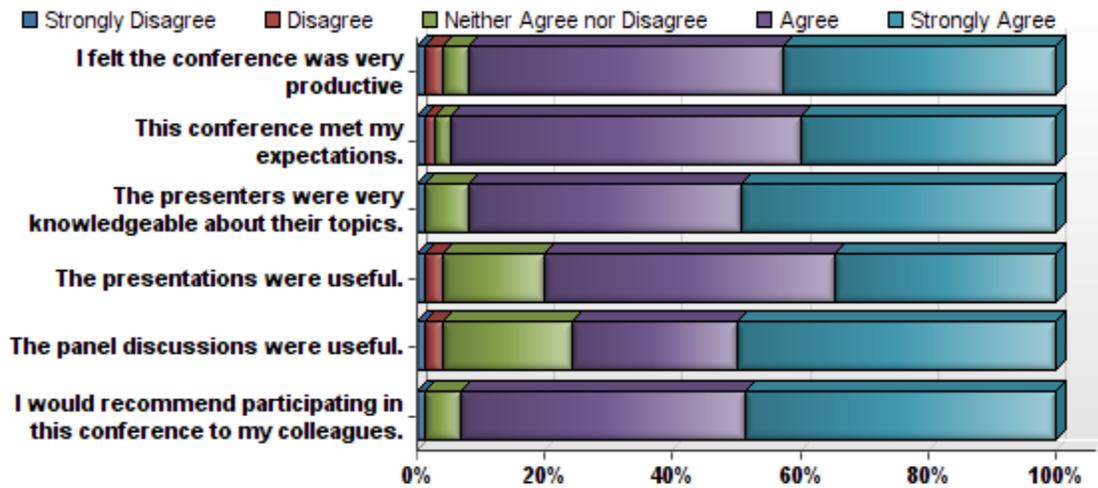
# URC 2014 Evaluation Summary

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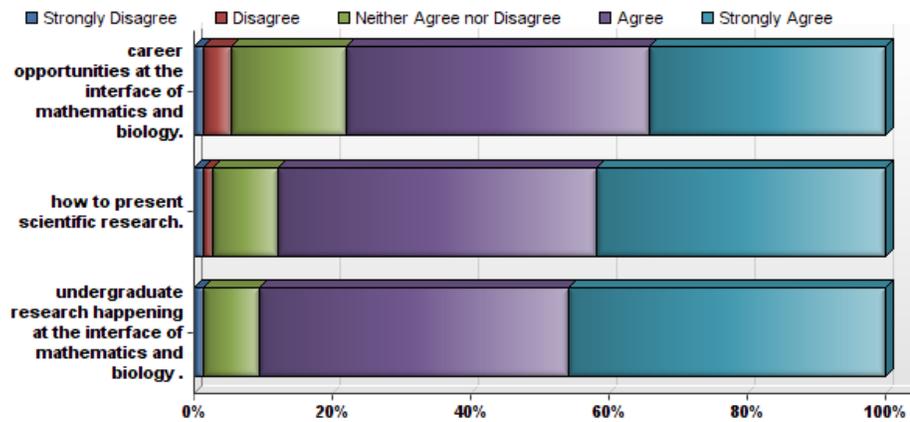
1. Are you an undergraduate student?



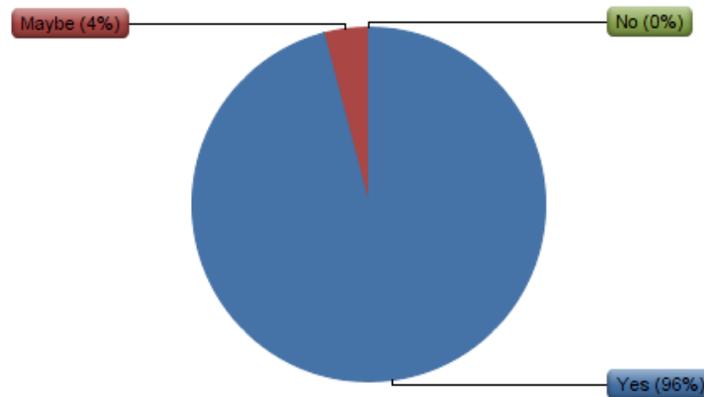
2. Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this conference:



3. 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:



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



5. Comments:

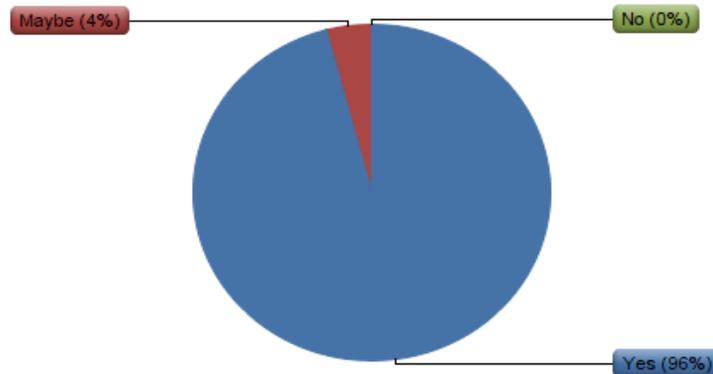
- I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Nelms and other collaborators that assured a field in mathematical biology is a path that I want to pursue.
- As an undergrad we're not really at the point to collaborate and the diversity of research meant very few people had meshable research
- It was an amazing place to meet fellow undergraduates and those whom were already in the field and get their input and network.
- Spoke to graduate school representatives that gave me very useful information.
- I invited Dr. Joseph Tien to attend my and Brennan's talk on the effect of dispersal on a two-patch predator-prey system. I later discussed the project with him. I also talked to Dr. Richard Schugard at West Kentucky University about possibly conducting research with him this summer. I'm very excited to keep in touch with the contacts I have made at this conference.
- The keynote speakers were especially helpful. Also the conference was VERY conducive to meeting other students and professors. I really enjoyed its structure.
- I met other people that were conducting similar research that were able to give suggestions for



- The panel discussions about careers and further education.
- The ability to present our research and interact with others who are at our level to look for way to improve.
- Bringing together student researchers from all over the country gave me the opportunity to learn about their experiences and possible career plans. It was great to see how they have a similar academic situation as I do and talk to them about their future plans. The advice and experiences of all the other student researchers was very valuable and will serve me well as I finalize my future academic plans.
- The opportunity to present my research to my peers.
- Getting the change to make an oral presentation.
- Seeing how interdisciplinary the fields of math and biology really are.
- The panel with Dr. Smith speaking about the graduate school process was most useful.
- Keynote speakers were awesome.
- Great opportunity to meet other faculty with research and educational interesting in math biology.
- The socialization of the other undergrads.
- The connections i made with people
- Being able to talk to others about my research and gain experience in presenting a poster. The experience will be useful in graduate school.
- Talking with students and profs about how they can get involved with Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
- In my opinion the most useful aspect of the conference were the presentations and the graduate school fair.
- The panel was GREAT!
- The panel discussion and keynote speeches.
- Graduate school panel and fair
- Interaction among the students; could we better facilitate this by juxtaposition of sessions, or embedded discussion topics?
- I enjoyed presenting, hearing the keynote speakers, and the panel discussion on graduate school and career opportunities.
- Being able to see how scientific presentations are done
- I thought the drug design talk was very interesting.
- I believe the poster sessions are very beneficial. It allows you to interact with the researcher directly and gain an understanding of a research project which isn't always possible in an oral presentation. Granted similar discussions with a researcher can take place outside of their oral presentation; I feel poster sessions facilitate this better.
- Because of the small size of the conference and the format of activities I was able to connect with many people I would not have been able to otherwise. These connections were with people interested in many sides of the bio-math spectrum.
- Meet new students (and potential candidates for our graduate programs)
- The experience was fabulous for my undergraduate student. He met new friends, learned about graduate schools, gave a presentation, and learns about other math-bio projects.
- For students, it was most useful to learn about opportunities in mathbio. For faculty, the opportunity to talk with other faculty about what they're doing was very helpful, as well as keeping up to date on (some) current research trends.
- Exchange research ideas with other faculty/students in other areas. It is a great opportunity for students to see what their peers are doing. The keynote speech provided valuable examples of math and biology interacting with each other.

- The panel about career opportunities.
- The conference gave me a taste of being in that sort of environment. Also, I was able to learn from others in similar undergraduate positions at different universities. It was good to see the application of the two subjects together because normally the two subjects are kept apart.
- Getting to know other students across the country that are also doing Math and Bio research
- The lectures and career panels by the guest speakers
- The keynote speaker, panel discussion, and college fair were all useful.
- Being able to see who else is doing math/bio work across the US.
- The opportunity to present a poster
- The panel and keynote speakers were my favorite part.
- Hearing From other undergraduate researchers Like me
- Having the opportunity to present research. There are not many opportunities like.
- The keynote speakers presented some very exciting ideas and concepts-- particularly Dr. Smith's notion of computational drug design-- that I had not been exposed to previously.
- Practicing my presenting skills.
- The way the programs were organized
- The opportunity to present my work and get feedback about my presentation skills as well as my research.
- Inspiration from keynote speakers on the possibilities and responsibilities of further research.
- Being able to network with other people in the mathematical biology field.
- The graduate school networking session and the poster sessions.
- Interacting with peers who are also math-biology!

**7. 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?**



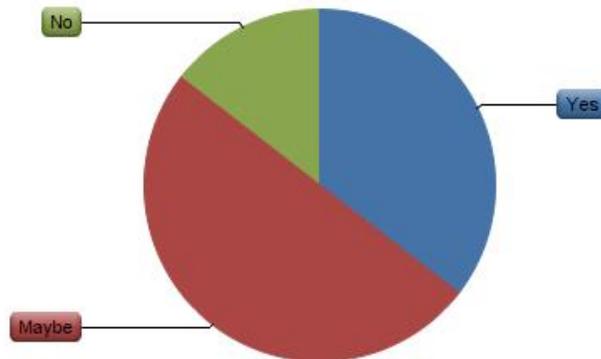
**8. Comments:**

- The speakers were relevant, the keynote speakers were great. The environment was professional, yet intimate enough for me to feel comfortable asking specific questions.
- I feel that every time you present your research you become more comfortable with presenting in general, but also with the content of your research and how to convey what you found to others in an efficient and thorough manner.
- The career panel was extremely interesting and informative (with Dr. Tien and Dr. Smith). I learned a lot from other students' research experiences both from talks/posters and in between

events.

- It did a fantastic job in the above.
- It's great as it is for undergraduate research presentation
- seemed to be that from the short poster session I observed
- Topics ranging from Math and Biology were covered and I think as an undergraduate I learned beyond expected by participating in this conference.

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



**10. Please explain impact on career plans:**

- It verified that I want to be in the field that I am in.
- Might now get PhD in mathematics rather than neuroscience
- I got to see all of the projects in mathematical biology, and the applications for this type of research.
- The advice given about how to go about pursuing careers/graduate studies was especially helpful
- I already decided on my career plans prior to arriving at NIMBioS.
- I learned a little about graduate schools from the Graduate Recruitment session. At this point I'm still unsure about my career plans but I was glad to learn from the recruiters and other students' mentors about their graduate school experiences.
- It was a very informative experience.
- I now know that i can teach for 2 years after i graduate and then go to grad school
- I plan to learn more about different projects that tie into my project.
- I don't believe I will be going into the research field but maybe.
- I have other interests in mathematics outside of biology, so I have to decide whether to focus on those applications or on biological applications. The conference didn't sway me that strongly in either direction.
- Many of the topics were interesting, and they helped open my thinking to many new ideas.
- Pharmacy is more Chemistry oriented
- The career panel really made me question my career decisions/dreams.
- Already having a strong notion of pursuing model analysis in graduate school, this conference presented opportunities to learn about methods and directions in this area of study that I hadn't known about. I intend to explore these options when I pursue my graduate degree.

- There are fewer benefits for faculty members participating in the conference. Perhaps, there could be some professional development activities for the faculty. For example, where to find funding, etc.
- I was already interested in mathematical biology

## 11. What would you change about the conference?



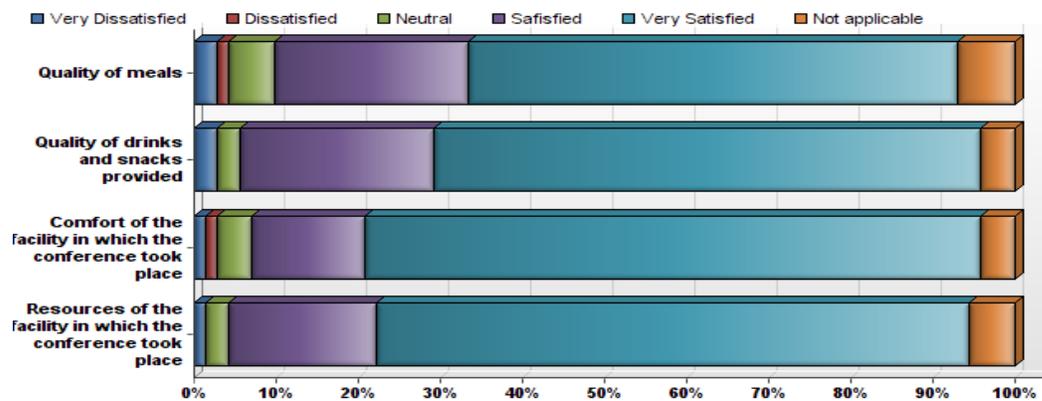
- The date (make it later in November)
- It would have been nice to have some time with talk with graduate students. Maybe another panel for asking questions about grad school applications, and grad student life, from a group of current grad students.
- Longer. Instead of starting on Saturday it should have started on Friday night. Games. Better food. better topics
- It was well prepared
- Nothing. It was really good.
- It would be nice to also have someone for computer science at either the career panel or the graduate school fair
- I would make it start later the second day.
- Recommendations for local venues. For ex: Where to eat, where to shop, etc...
- Nada
- Make it a bit more engaging??
- The poster session was very long for the small amount of posters.
- Needs more interaction
- I wouldn't change a thing. The conference was very well-organized and I greatly enjoyed attending.
- I wish they would have made people receiving funding more accountable to be present. While I did check in, there really wasn't a moment to confirm that I participated in the conference besides giving my talk.
- More activities for students.
- I probably wouldn't change anything.
- Though the SET game was an interesting ice-breaker, I felt most people were compelled to \*not\* talk to someone simply because their card wouldn't form a perfect set. I didn't find it difficult to just

converse with people but many people seemed to feel pressured to form a set, exchange a quick interesting fact, and then move on. Few people really seemed to just talk more in depth with each other.

- 8am is a very early start, particularly for anyone jetlagged.
- More presentations by professionals.
- More biology people in attendance
- I would perhaps include a short course where a professor actually teaches some of the modern uses of mathematical models in biological work.
- The hour where there was networking strictly for faculty was somewhat boring, the undergrads were left with nothing to do.
- An electronic list of participants with emails and affiliations.
- I would have a break time between each speaker, let's say 5 minutes, so that people can "recharge" his/her brain if you will.
- Nothing
- Nothing
- I would give breaks 10 min breaks to students
- I would like more perspective from more people who are currently in the field.
- I would have a bit more structure to "down time", so more encouragement of networking.
- There was a too much down time on Sunday. I finished visiting the grad school fair and then had an hour and a half until the poster sessions started, but there was nothing else happening.
- The weekend timing is always problematic...but I don't see clear alternatives...
- On Sunday morning, I felt like there was a lot of unused time. I would suggest beginning the conference a little bit later on Sunday.
- Some of the presenters were barely informed on their topic. Maybe a little more preparation or selection is in order.
- In my opinion, the conference was too packed.
- A longer poster presentation time would allow presenters an opportunity to engage visitors to their poster but also provide enough time to view others presenting in the same time block. I was presenting my poster constantly over the scheduled block in which I didn't get enough time to speak with as many of the other presenters in my block as I had hoped.
- outdoor activity for participants before or after conference (team bonding activity)
- I would try to make it a little more beneficial for faculty mentors attending.
- The students said the programs at the graduate school session were very specific. They found it hard to get information about the options at a particular school.
- Nothing
- I am not sure.
- Maybe change the time of the first post session of the first day. It was after dinner and the last thing on the schedule. By then I was ready to get back to the hotel and it hard to engage fully after a long day. Whereas, the second day poster session was really informative and useful.
- Include more opportunities that are available to those students who can't continue in school on after the undergraduate degree.
- Nothing
- 8:00 am was an early start time but what can ya do
- Nothing
- The poster presentation location.
- N/a
- I think there should be more biology programs represented at the graduate school fair.

- My main issues with the conference were the fact that some of the undergraduate presentations weren't presented in a very exciting fashion, but there isn't really much that a conference organizer can do about that. I greatly enjoyed the keynote speakers' presentations, as well as their presence in the graduate school panel. If there were more presentations by faculty/professors about their work I would enjoy it.
- Bring up more internship opportunities for undergraduates
- I thought that a lot of the presentations felt very similar so a little more variety in the types of research would have been cool.
- I would love for there to be more time for talks by professors and students
- Nothing!

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



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

Text Response

- more comfortable chairs please
- I think NIMBioS was very accommodating to all.
- The conference center and its rooms felt very cold to me. The quality of the meals was fine, but all I would say is to provide more of each of the snacks!
- I think that NIMBioS uses the best options available.
- I think the conference was amazing, and I enjoyed it just the way it was
- I think snacks should have been offered more often. I found myself hungry quite often.
- Gluten free options for breakfast and dessert were limited. The staff went above and beyond to help in finding alternatives for other meals, however. Overall it was not a bad experience, but maybe something to grow into in the future.
- Hotels were fantastic
- Insure that there are batteries available for the laser pointer

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

- Excellent, except for the date
- Overall i liked it. There could be improvements for next time. also an individual room for each presenter
- None
- Very good experience. Thoroughly beneficial and satisfying. Thank you NIMBioS.
- Phenomenal experience
- I had a great time and am looking forward to seeing future opportunities with NIMBioS.
- I am so grateful I had the opportunity to attend the conference. It was enlightening, and would not have been financially possible for me without the support I received to come through NIMBioS
- Overall this conference was a great experience and I would definitely recommend it. The staff were very welcoming and hospitable; they were very helpful and pleasant. The food was also great, and abundant.
- I had an awesome time and I'm going to recommend it to my colleagues who research in math/bio. Keep up the great work with hosting, NIMBioS!
- Everything I expected in an undergraduate conference and more. I thoroughly enjoyed the keynote speakers - easily my favorite part.
- The most enjoyable scientific research conference I have attended as an undergraduate!
- Great conference Good food Good people Good presentations It was a bit short and smaller than I'd like but i think i was great all around
- Thanks for the invite and support - we got some great new Cit Sci contacts!
- This conference impacted me in many ways and helped me learn and grow regarding research opportunities. I am honored to have been part of such event.
- It was a good conference, and NIMBioS was very accommodating!
- The conference continues to be "math" heavy in terms of the leadership and directions. This is a consequence of the origin and background of the leaders. But there are some Biomath programs with much stronger biology content. Better balance in keynote speakers might help.
- Thank you so much for your work and for creating the conference!
- I thought it was a great experience, however, I think it would be even better if there were more people.
- I was awarded support for the conference this year. The staff (Toby and Chandra) assisting me were phenomenal! I had special circumstances in arranging travel and the staff did all they could to make it easy to get to Knoxville. In addition, the hotel accommodations were great!
- Invite Jeremy Smith every year. Good provocative discussions.
- It was great.
- A good first experience of a conference with some valuable takeaways. It would be good to return and present next year
- Although most students that went to the conference have in mind going to graduate school, perhaps include some information about what students who don't intend to go to graduate after graduation can do.
- N/a
- Keynote speakers were awesome!
- Thank you so much. I had a great time. Keep doing what you are doing.
- Thanks to everyone who put together the conference! It was wonderful!