**NCASM Spring 2024 Meeting**

April 13th, 2024

Ohlone College

Fremont, CA

**Student Session Proposal**

**Title:** Student MicroTalks: Igniting Ideas, Cultivating Scientific Communication and Careers!

**Summary:** Join us for our brand new 'Student MicroTalks: Igniting Ideas, Cultivating Science Careers' student session at our upcoming NCASM Spring 2024 meeting. This unique session is designed to empower students from all backgrounds, whether you're deep into research or just starting out. Each student will have the chance to deliver a five-minute talk before and after each speaker session on pre-generated topics that are broad and engaging, ensuring everyone can participate and share their viewpoints. The finale of our session is a dedicated hour where students gain valuable insights into effective science communication and scientific career growth, guided by our panel of experts. This session is perfect for anyone with a curiosity in science – a chance to learn, connect, and perhaps even find your calling in the world of microbiology. So, come and join us, explore broad topics, present your ideas, and immerse yourself in the exciting world of microbiology!

**Session Format and Timing:**

* Flash Talks Duration: 5 minutes each, at the beginning and end of professional speaker sessions.
* Final Student Session Duration: 1 hour, at the end of the meeting.

**Flash Talks Structure:**

1. Topic Allocation: Distribute a list of broad, engaging microbiology topics to students beforehand.
2. Presentation Guidelines: Provide students with guidelines on presentation structure and content.

**Final Session Structure:**

1. Panel Discussion: Professionals discuss key aspects of science communication and career development in microbiology.
2. Q&A Segment: Students interact with professionals, asking questions and seeking advice.
3. Networking Opportunity: A mix-and-mingle session for students to connect with professionals.

**List of topics**

1. **The Role of Microbes in Climate Change:** Exploring how microorganisms affect and are affected by climate change.
2. **Antibiotic Resistance: A Growing Challenge:** Understanding the mechanisms and implications of antibiotic resistance in bacteria.
3. **Microbiomes and Health:** Investigating how the human microbiome influences health and disease.
4. **Microbes in Space:** Studying how microorganisms behave in space environments and their role in space exploration.
5. **Bioremediation: Microbes to the Rescue:** Examining how microbes can be used to clean up environmental pollutants.
6. **The World of Viruses:** A look into the diversity of viruses and their impact on human health and ecosystems.
7. **Fermentation: Microbes at Work in Food:** Exploring the role of microbes in fermentation processes and food production.
8. **Microbial Superpowers: Extremophiles:** Discovering microorganisms that thrive in extreme environments and their potential applications.
9. **Emerging Infectious Diseases:** Discussing the emergence and spread of new microbial diseases and the challenges in controlling them.
10. **Synthetic Biology and Microbes:** Understanding how synthetic biology can be used to engineer microorganisms for various applications.