**ISM Excellence in Microbiology Scholarship Submission Guidelines and Criteria**

**Emerging Microbiologist**

Short Essay

1. The topic of “Emerging Issues in the Field of Microbiology” can include anything related to microbiology. A few examples include government policy, new diagnostic techniques, scientific discoveries, advances in medicine, public and global health, food science, environmental science, veterinary medicine, business.
2. The purpose of the essay is to discuss a current topic of your interest and make the case why this is interesting and relevant to the field of microbiology. One suggested approach is to answer the question “How will your topic change the practice of \_\_\_\_?”
3. You must include your own ideas and choose a topic that you feel passionate about. Citing reputable sources from the internet (i.e. blogs, news sites, magazine articles, etc.) is acceptable, but avoid “cut and paste” of ideas (see ‘plagiarism’ below). Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.
4. Essay length should be limited to 2000 words/4 pages. Please use 11 or 12 point font and standard margins.

**Enterprising Microbiologist**

Abstract Submission

1. Include the following section headers: Introduction; Methods; Results; Discussion
2. Introduction should include the reason for the study or how the study came about (e.g., hypothesis, discovery or central question), in addition to enough background for a wide audience to understand the project.
3. Methods must be included.
4. Data must be objectively gathered, analyzed and reported. Sample size should be adequate for the study, and where indicated, statistical evaluation should be included.
5. Figures and tables may be included (limit 3) and will not be counted in the page/word limit.
6. Discussion should include a description of your project in a larger context as it applies to the field of microbiology (i.e. What is the big picture? Why is your work important?)
7. Work that has been previously submitted or is intended to be submitted to a larger scientific meeting is acceptable for submission.
8. Limit to 2 pages/1000 words

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.  All submitted essays or abstracts identified with plagiarism will be disqualified.

Please include all proper citations and references, especially when working with information taken from the internet. This includes new articles, blog sites, magazine articles, etc.

The NIH ORI publication "[Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-Plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: a Guide to Ethical Writing](http://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing)" can help authors identify questionable writing practices.

**Submit essays and abstracts to: scholarships@ism-il.org**