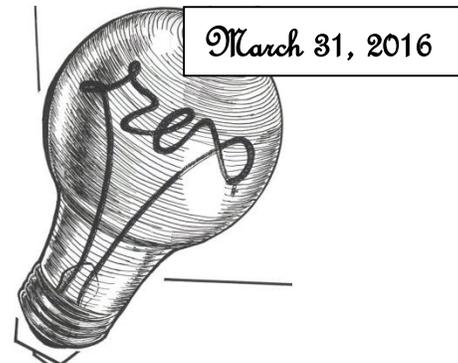


# 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL USF RESEARCH EXHIBITION

MARCH 31, 2016



## EVENT DETAILS

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual USF Research Exhibition for student and faculty research will take place on Thursday, March 31, 2016 in Achatz Hall. Registration will begin at 4:30 PM. Our keynote speaker, Emily Richardson, will be introduced at 4:45 PM. Following the lecture our oral sessions will commence at 5:00 PM followed by the poster session at 6:30 PM. Even-numbered poster presenters should stand next to their posters for the first portion of the session and odd-numbered presenters should do so for the remainder of the session. This will allow all poster presenters opportunities to mingle and view other posters. Snacks for the poster session are provided by Sigma Pi. A trivia contest will be led by the Pre-Professional Healthcare Club (PPHC) immediately following the poster session at 7:30 PM. At the conclusion of the trivia, poster prizes will be presented.

Pre-Registration for poster presenters can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/REXinfo>.

## EVENT TIMELINE

<b>Begin</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Location</b>
4:30 PM	4:45 PM	Registration	Atrium
4:45 PM	5:00 PM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Gunderson
5:00 PM	5:25 PM	Keynote Speaker	Gunderson
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Oral Session 1	Gunderson
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Oral Session 2	Planetarium
6:30 PM	7:00 PM	Even number poster presentations	Posters in hallways
7:00 PM	7:30 PM	Odd number poster presentations	Posters in hallways
7:30 PM	8:15 PM	Trivia contest by PPHC Judges decide on winners	Gunderson
8:15 PM	8:30 PM	Poster prizes awarded	Gunderson

## **Keynote Address**

**Speaker: Emily Richardson**

### **Social Affiliation and Spatial Distribution Patterns of Cetacean Morbillivirus Infection in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) of Indian River Lagoon, Florida**

In the summer of 2015, I interned in the Dolphin Photo-ID Lab at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution located along the Indian River Lagoon in Fort Pierce, FL. The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is a shallow-water estuarine ecosystem that comprises 40% of Florida's central east coast, stretching 156 miles. The IRL is of particular interest for study because it supports broad diversity of more than 4,300 different species, many of which are threatened or endangered. The estuary's health is threatened by commercial and recreational usage as well as aggregated polluted runoff from agricultural and municipal wastes. Connected to the Atlantic Ocean via five inlets and one lock, many IRL populations are resident, that is, they are isolated from the Atlantic Ocean. This holds true for the IRL bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) population; immigration and emigration in this habitat is uncommon and individuals establish long-term relationships within restricted home ranges. By completing population studies, we can determine how IRL bottlenose dolphins interact, with whom they interact, and where they reside within the IRL. As highly social animals with complex social networks, it is important to consider social structure when discussing disease transmission. Cetacean morbillivirus (CMV) is an immunosuppressive disease and has periodically infected and devastated the IRL bottlenose dolphin population. I set out to explore the relationship between IRL bottlenose dolphin social and spatial structure and the presence of CMV titer within the population. I found that CMV titer presence in IRL bottlenose dolphins is not related to their social or spatial structure. I am excited to share this unique experience with students not only to benefit their knowledge on immunology and conservation but to encourage them to participate in such extraordinary opportunities.