Information for Students for Project SMART program

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Project SMART Summer Institute is an excellent opportunity to learn the interdisciplinary nature of the recent scientific advances and the applications and implications (economic, social, environmental, legal, ethical and moral) of the tools of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering of animals, plants and microbes. In addition to learning the science of this rapidly growing field, the students gain a greater appreciation for careers associated with this field, and establish friendships with their peers, and mentoring relationships with the UNH faculty and students. Over the years, the students have come from across the US (as far away as Alaska and Puerto Rico), and from abroad, e.g. Greece, Turkey, Spain, Jordan, Kazakhstan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Japan.

Here are some initial details of the program for this year – the 32nd year of Project SMART -

The fact that we cannot have a gathering at UNH, and would still like to make the program largely concurrent for everyone who participates; the program this year will be limited to students from the East Coast of the US and those from Europe and beyond. It will be offered online and concurrently at times which are more suitable to students from these limited time zones.

There are obvious shortcomings in this year’s program vs. the ones in the years before (the most obvious being the lack of hands-on lab experience), but there are some advantages as well (to be positive about the whole situation with COVID-19) for it being online, and thus available to students from distant places with no cost of travel to the students, thus a much lower program fees. The program as planned will cover all topics of lectures and discussions (that we generally cover in the Biotechnology module) during the 3 weeks; and provide a unique experience to students about the field of biotechnology and genetic engineering, including the applications and social, legal, ethical, and moral implications of these technologies. In addition, we will devote a full day to the topic of Corona Virus(es) to bring the participants up to date with the science of COVID-19 Pandemic. We will definitely talk about the lab techniques to illustrate these topics but sadly no hands-on experience. For those of you, who are interested, we hope to do a special program in the Fall on campus, assuming that we are all open.

The program fee is $500 (subject to approval by UNH); and, partial or full scholarships will be available to those who cannot afford the cost. We expect a diverse group of students from the US as well as abroad. Last two years, we had students from Eastern US, Greece, Turkey, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Japan. The tentative schedule is to meet three days a week for 3 hours/day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays simultaneously online via ZOOM. The suggested times are from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Eastern US time. All lectures will be recorded and available to the students for later viewing.

We look forward to hearing from you soon about your intent to join. Best regards to you all.

Subhash Minocha, Director Project SMART-2023

NOTE: Please send the pre-application early. Last 2 years we had full sessions within weeks of advertisement.