

## Reviewers reading Proposals for MURC

Reviewers of conference proposals read a large number of submissions to determine whether the proposed paper or poster meets the requirements of the conference and how the submission might best be combined with other presentations in oral sessions or poster displays. They may or may not be experts in your area of study. Reviewers need to understand clearly

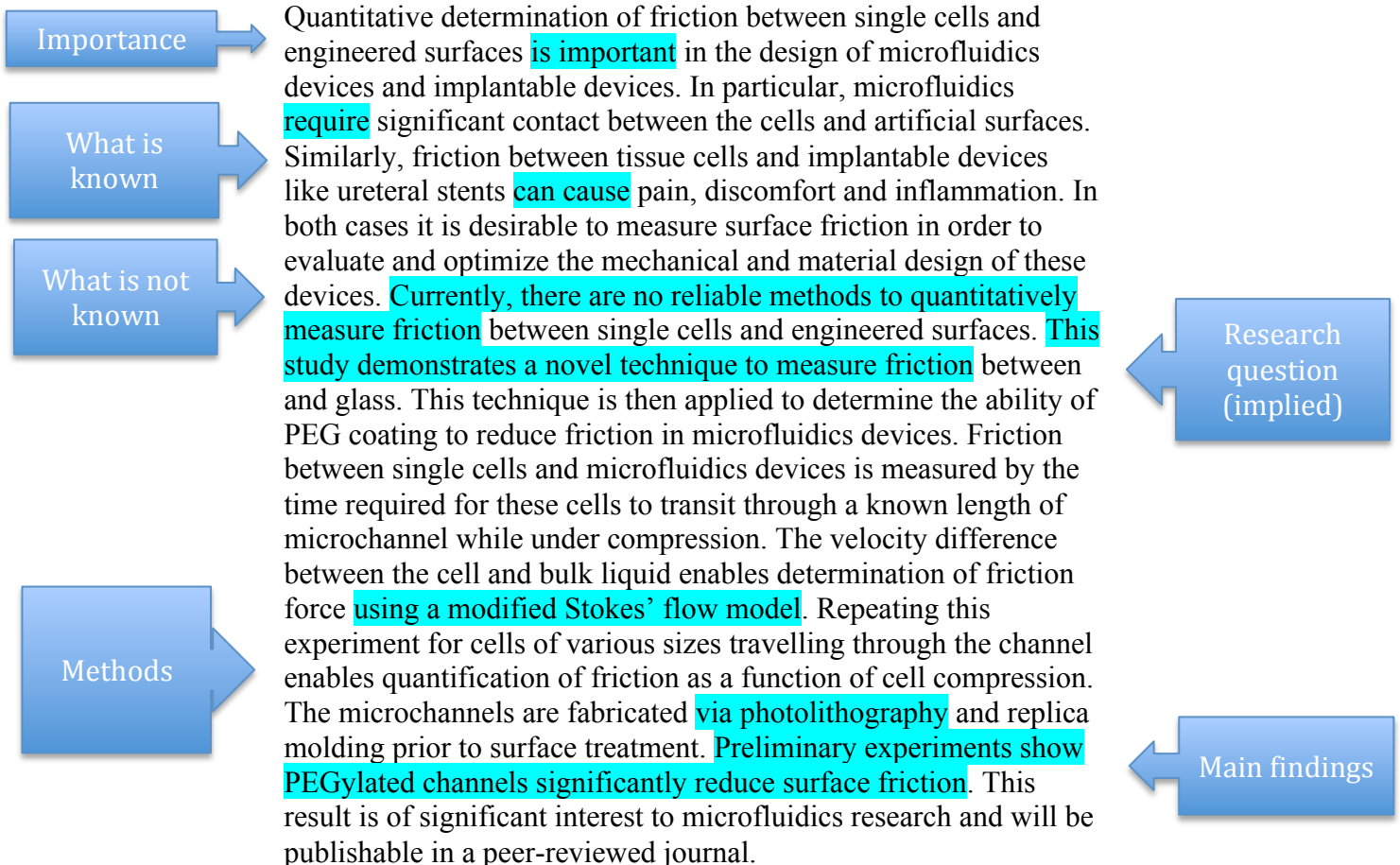
- the importance of the research project
- the existing state of knowledge
- the research question
- the method or methods used
- the main findings

Since MURC is not a specialized conference, reviewers will also be assessing whether an interested non-specialist audience will be able to follow the presentation. Including brief definitions or explanations and using concrete “real world” examples helps non-specialists understand what your study is addressing and why.

The following proposals for oral presentations were all accepted for MURC 2011. They represent disciplines from across the university. The blue highlighting and side labels show how a reviewer may interpret the parts of the research projects listed above. The comments below the proposals indicate responses reviewers may have as they are reading.

## Sample Proposals from the 2011 MURC Conference

### Quantitative Measurement of Friction on Single Cells in Microfluidics Devices and the Effect of Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) Coating



Laz Milovanovic (Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Hongshen Ma)

#### Reviewers' responses:

- some of the language at the beginning (e.g. microfluidics) is hard for a non-specialist to grasp, although the example of the ureteral stents helps make the problem clearer.
- non-specialist readers would welcome having the PEG acronym spelled out a second time in the body of the proposal.
- the knowledge deficit, the lack of a reliable method to measure friction quantitatively, is very clear...
- but the main finding indicates there are really two questions being addressed, first the measurement of the friction and then the effectiveness of PEG to reduce friction.

## Benefits of Choice Feeding in Commercial Layer Production

With rising cereal grain prices and public pressure for improved animal welfare, **alternate feed sources and feeding regimes need** to be developed for commercial poultry production. **Choice feeding presents itself** as a viable alternative to commercial diets. **The aim here is to assess the viability** of choice feeding in terms of animal welfare, economic and food quality benefits. In choice feeding, birds are offered a choice between three foodstuffs: an energy source, a protein source and in the case of laying hens, a calcium source whereas in commercial production, a single complete diet is offered. **Research in choice feeding regimes in layers was reviewed**. The greater dietary flexibility offered by choice feeding regimes allows hens to meet individual peak energy, protein and calcium demands during egg formation more efficiently than hens on conventional diets. This leads to a production of equal or better quality eggs at the same rate as conventional layers with reduced feed inputs. As whole cereals are often offered as the energy source, costs such as grinding and mixing of the feed can be avoided. Moreover, local grains can be utilized thus saving transportation costs of imported food stuffs. A choice-feeding regime can also potentially improve animal welfare by allowing for natural foraging behavior and promoting digestive tract functionality. In summary, **choice-feeding offers benefits** in terms of egg quality, farm economics and animal welfare and should thus be considered by the poultry industry as a viable feeding practice.

Importance

What is not known + research question (implied)

Method

Findings

What is known

Alice Yu Ting Feng (Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Darin Bennett)

### Reviewers' responses:

- the explanation of what choice feeding entails is helpful in seeing how this feeding regime represents an alternative.
- the existing state of knowledge is not entirely clear. Is it the viability in the three areas together that is uncertain?
- it looks as though the method is a review of published studies. Is that right?