

2026 Sponsorship Opportunities



WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL UNDERGRADUATE
SCIENCE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 | 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Van Andel Institute | Grand Rapids, MI

The annual West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science (WMRUGS) Research Conference brings together students and faculty at Van Andel Institute (VAI) for a day of learning and networking. Undergraduate students present their work in a professional setting and hear stimulating talks on current trends in biochemistry, bioengineering, bioinformatics, biology, chemistry, computer science, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, psychology, physics and more.

Using poster presentations, a popular format for research and clinical conferences, students communicate concepts and data to an audience using a combination of visuals and text. This allows the author to meet and speak informally with interested viewers, facilitating a greater exchange of ideas and networking opportunities.

In 2025, conference attendees came from the following 25 institutions: Alma College, Aquinas College, Calvin University, Central Michigan University, Cornerstone University, Ferris State University, Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Hillsdale College, Hope College, Indiana Wesleyan University, Kalamazoo College, Michigan State University, Montcalm Community College, Oakland University, Olivet Nazarene University, Purdue University, Siena Heights University, University of Alabama-Huntsville, University of Florida, University of Michigan, Van Andel Institute Graduate School and Western Michigan University.

Conference Objectives

For Business & Industry

- Address local, regional and statewide employment needs, especially future needs in biomedical and medical industries

For Students

- Share research projects with faculty, research scientists and other college students
- Build a network of peers with similar interests and experience
- Hear stimulating talks on current topics in biology, chemistry, physics and more
- Meet graduate school, internship and employment recruiters

For Undergraduate Institutions

- Retain students by affirming their interest in the sciences
- Motivate students to pursue science-related careers and/or graduate school

For Graduate Schools & Internship/Employment Recruiters

- Recruit high-caliber students

Conference Host:  **VAN ANDEL
INSTITUTE®**

Medical Mile, Grand Rapids, MI



Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

Title Sponsor (1) — \$3,000

- Name/logo on conference invitation
- Full-page ad in abstract booklet
- Brief comments on stage by company rep.
- One-minute informational video during opening remarks/welcome
- Four complimentary registrations
- 6' display table at research conference



Keynote Speaker Sponsor (1) — \$2,000

- Half-page ad in abstract booklet
- One-minute informational video during opening remarks/welcome
- Two complimentary registrations
- 6' display table at research conference

Poster Session Sponsors (unlimited) — \$750

- Half-page ad in abstract booklet
- Logo on way-finding signage
- Two complimentary registrations
- 6' display table at research conference

Supporting Sponsors (unlimited) — \$500

- Quarter-page ad in abstract booklet
- Two complimentary registrations
- 6' display table at research conference

Discover Sponsors (unlimited) — \$250

- Eighth-page ad in abstract booklet
- Two complimentary registrations
- 6' display table at research conference

Additional Recognition & Promotion

- Sponsor recognition on WMRUGS marketing materials
- Sponsor name and logo displayed on WMRUGS website
- Sponsor recognition during opening and closing remarks

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact:
Michelle Love | VAI Graduate School Program Administrator
616-234-5581 | michelle.love@vai.edu
vai.org/wmrugs

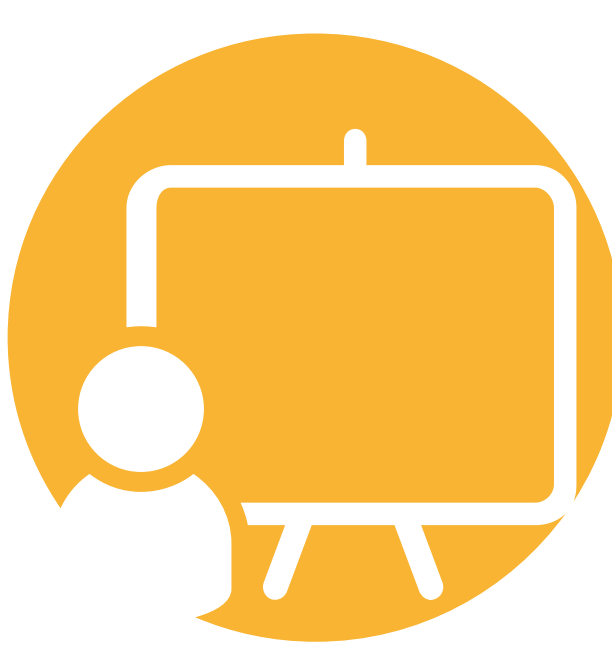
Organizing Institutions



Numerical Impact | 2025 Results



412
registrants



120
student
presenters



25
institutions
represented



17
disciplines
represented



13
graduate
school
recruiters



5
internship and
employment
recruiters

About Van Andel Institute

333 Bostwick Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 | vai.org

Van Andel Institute (VAI) is committed to improving the health and enhancing the lives of current and future generations through cutting-edge biomedical research and innovative educational offerings. Established in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1996 by the Van Andel family, VAI is now home to more than 500 scientists, educators and support staff, who work with a growing number of national and international collaborators to foster discovery. The Institute’s scientists study the origins of cancer, Parkinson’s and other diseases and translate their findings into breakthrough prevention and treatment strategies. Our educators develop inquiry-based approaches for K–12 education to help students and teachers prepare the next generation of problem-solvers, while our Graduate School offers a rigorous, research-intensive Ph.D. program in molecular and cellular biology. Learn more at vai.org.

