

CURE (Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience)



Courses that provide opportunities for students to practice science by doing what scientists do.

Entering university for STEM



< 50% graduate in STEM



“In many cases, these ...are capable students who **could have made valuable additions to the STEM workforce.**”

(Aulck et. al 2017)

High-Impact Practices (HIP) are “*enriching educational experiences that can be life-changing.*”

Learning
Community

Service
Learning

Research
with
Faculty

Internship

Study
Abroad

Senior
Experience

42%
experience
zero HIP

58% at least
one HIP

5% research

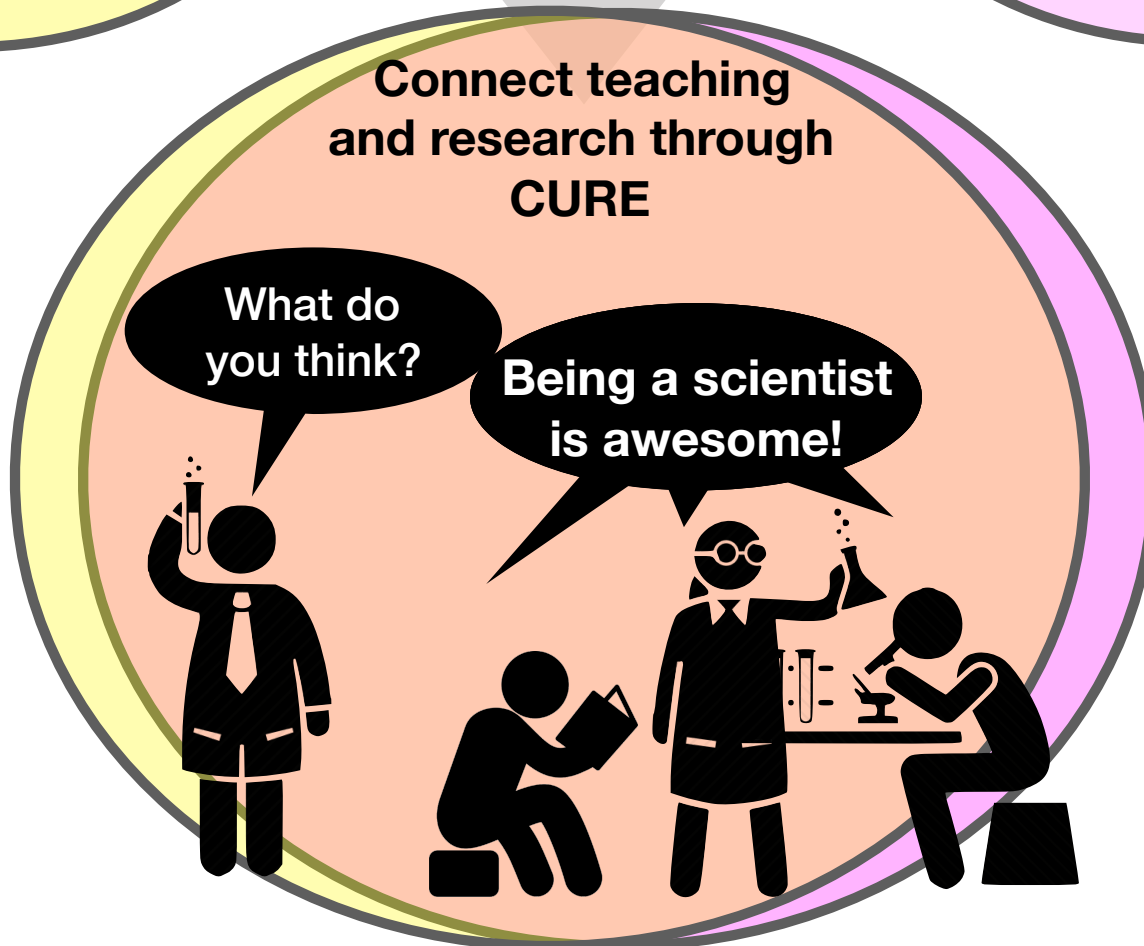
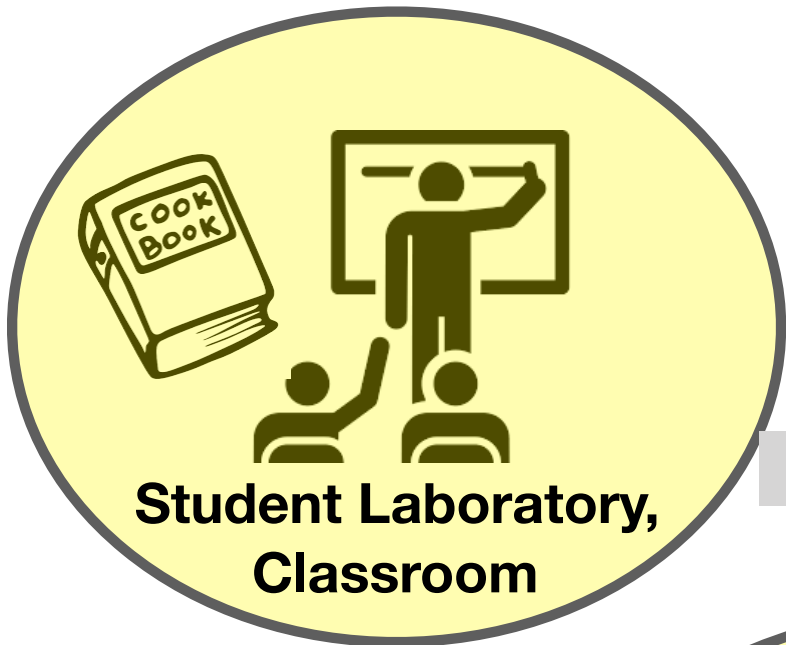
1st-Year Students

14%
experience
zero HIP

86% at least
one HIP

23% research

Senior Students



CUREs compared to traditional research internship

	CURE	Tradition Research
Scale	Many	Few
Mentorship Structure	One to Many	One to one
Enrollment	Open to all students in a course	Open to a select few students (often self-
Setting	Teaching lab	Research Lab
Mentoring	Consistent / Structured	Varied

(Auchincloss et al., 2014)

Think & work like a scientist	+	+
Identify as a scientist	+	+
Confidence	+	+
Interest in STEM	+	+
Career/Grad preparation	+	+
Skills	+	+

(Olivares-Donoso et al., 2019)

The CURE (Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience)

SCIENTIFIC PRACTICES

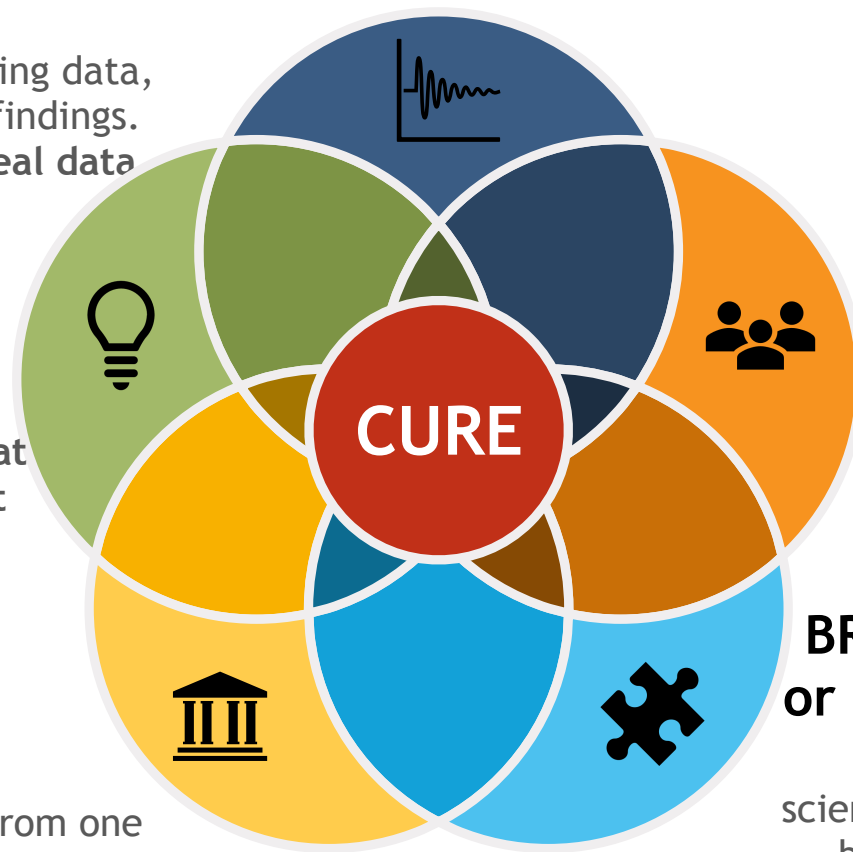
Formulating hypotheses, Collecting data, analyzing data, communicating findings. Coping with the messiness of real data

DISCOVERY

Discovery of new knowledge that is unknown to both the student and instructor.

ITERATION

Iterative process in which data from one experiment is used to design or guide a subsequent one.



COLLABORATION

Collaboration between students within and between teams.

BROADLY RELEVANT or IMPORTANT WORK

Student work fits into a broader scientific endeavor that has meaning beyond the particular coursework context.

(Auchincloss et al., 2014)

Think, pair, share

AND...What other reasons are there to teach a CURE?

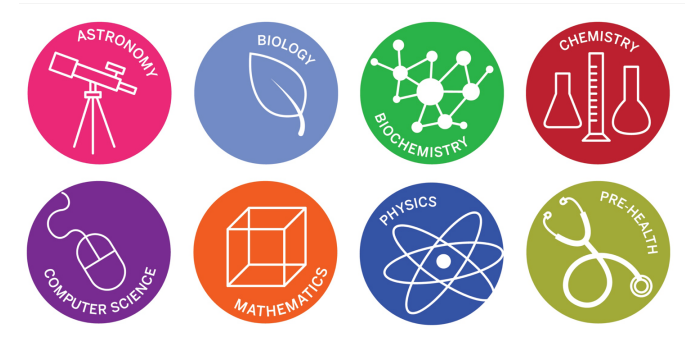
(other than increased access to research)

CURE = Whole classes of students address a research question that has relevance to a community beyond the classroom (most often a specific academic community).

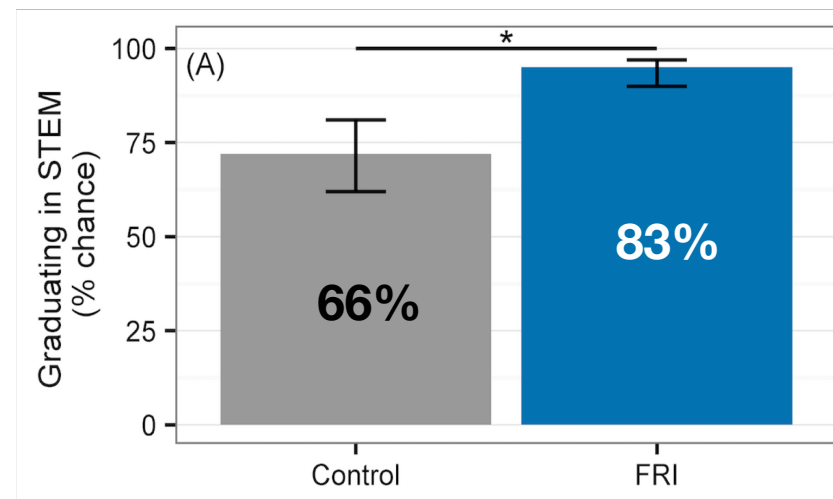
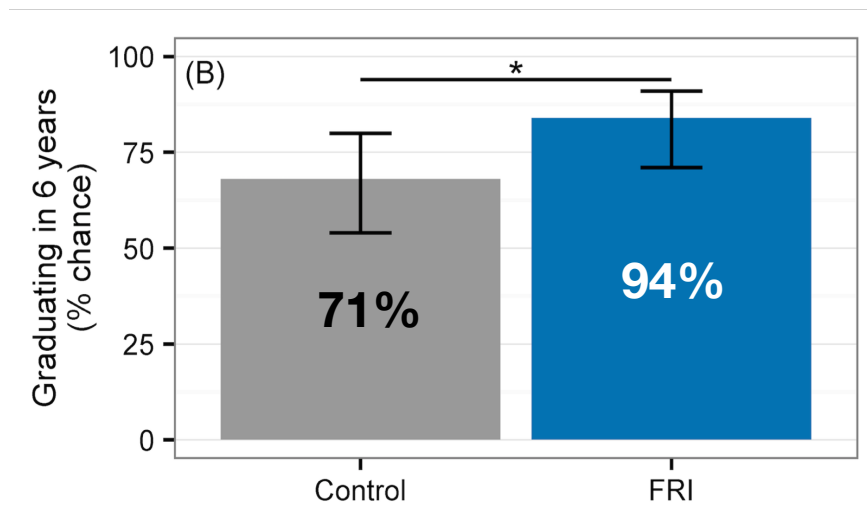
1. CUREs increase retention in STEM

Case Study

- Multiple research “streams”
- Drew on faculty members’ work
- Ongoing research projects
- Managed by a “research educator” (postdoc)
- Two-semester-long CUREs



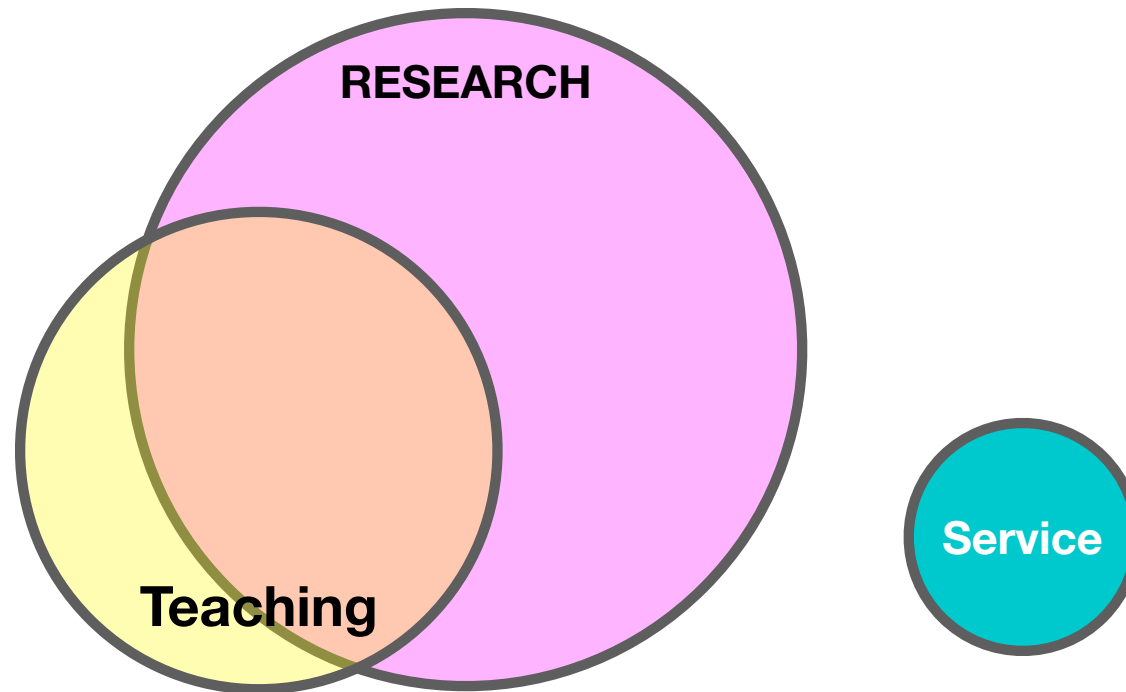
FRI students are more likely to graduate and more likely to graduate with a STEM degree



Effect is the same for students from ALL backgrounds

(Rodenbusch et al., 2016)

2. The instructor benefits



Faculty who teach CUREs do it because they

- Want to connect their teaching to research (76%)
- Enjoy it (74%)
- Do it for promotion and tenure (74%)
- Find it helps them to publish more (61%)
- Increases their research productivity (61%)
- Find it personally satisfying (47%)

3. The scientific community benefits

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Comprehensive curation and analysis of fungal biosynthetic gene clusters of published natural products

Yong Fuga Li^{1,6}, Kathleen J. S. Tsai², Colin J. B. Harvey¹, James Jian Li¹, Beatrice E. Ary², Erin E. Berlew², Brenna L. Boehman², David M. Findley², Alexandra G. Friant³, Christopher A. Gardner⁴, Michael P. Gould², Jae H. Ha³, Brenna K. Lilley⁴, Emily L. McKinstry², Saadia Nawal², Robert C. Parry², Kristina W. Rothchild², Samantha D. Silbert³, Michael D. Tentilucci², Alana M. Thurston², Rebecca B. Wai², Yongjin Yoon², Raeka S. Aiyar¹, Marnix H. Medema⁵, Maureen E. Hillenmeyer¹, and Louise K. Charkoudian²

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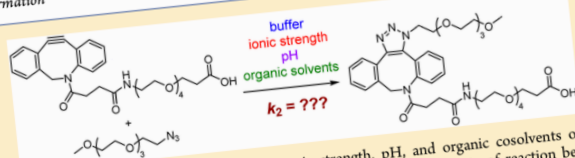
JOC The Journal of Organic Chemistry

Effect of Buffer Conditions and Organic Cosolvents on the Rate of Strain-Promoted Azide–Alkyne Cycloaddition

Derek L. Davis, Erin K. Price, Sabrina O. Aderbigbe, Maureen X.-H. Larkin, Emmett D. Barlow, Renjie Chen, Lincoln C. Ford, Zackery T. Gray, Stephen H. Gren, Yuwei Jin, Keith S. Keddington, Alexandra D. Kent, Dasom Kim, Ashley Lewis, Rami S. Marrouche, Mark K. O'Dair, Daniel R. Powell, Mick'l H. C. Scadden, Curtis B. Session, Jifei Tao, Janelle Trieu, Kristen N. Whiteford, Zheng Yuan, Goyeun Yun, Judy Zhu, and Jennifer M. Heemstra*

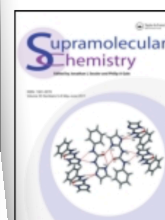
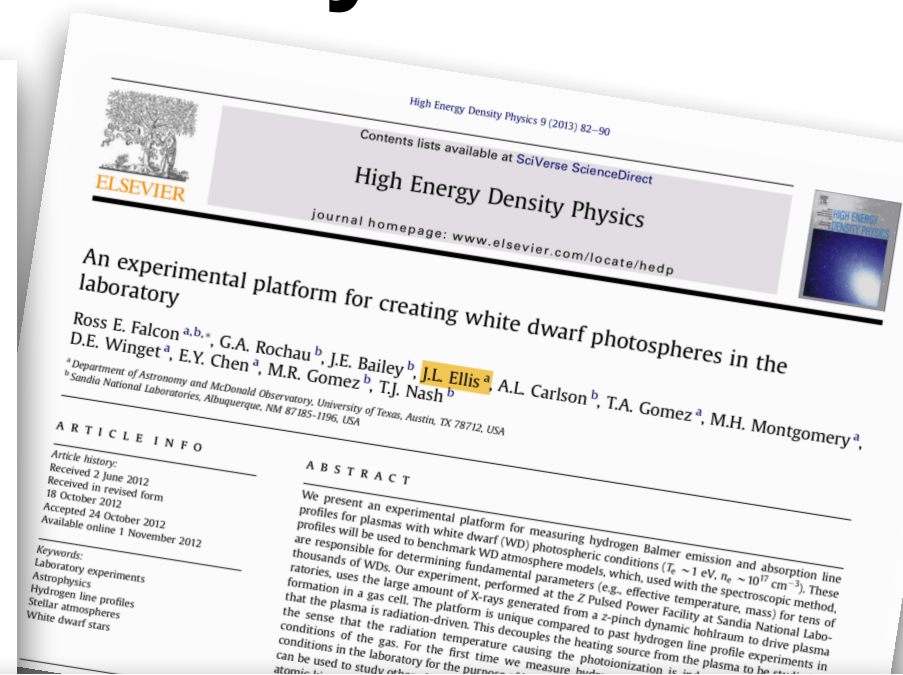
Department of Chemistry, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112, United States

Supporting Information



ABSTRACT: We investigate the effect of buffer identity, ionic strength, pH, and organic cosolvents on the rate of strain-promoted azide–alkyne cycloaddition with the widely used DIBAC cyclooctyne. The rate of reaction between DIBAC and a hydrophilic azide is highly tolerant to changes in buffer conditions but is impacted by organic cosolvents. Thus, bioconjugation reactions using DIBAC can be carried out in the buffer that is most compatible with the biomolecules being labeled, but the use of organic cosolvents should be carefully considered.

...the kinetics of DIBAC reactions are highly tolerant to ... impacted by organic



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Pattern-based discrimination of organic acids and red wine varietals by arrays of synthetic receptors

Lauren T. Gallagher, Jae Seok Heo, Matthew A. Lopez, Brenton M. Ray, Jennifer Xiao, Alona P. Umali, Anna Zhang, Sunanda Dharmarajan, Hildegarde Heymann & Eric V. Anslyn

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To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10610278.2011.638379>

How to get started



Adding Research to a Class

Undergraduate research is a high impact practice, and adding a research component to a class may provide better access to those experiences for those students or help meet other learning objectives. Implementing research in coursework (sometimes called a CURE, Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience) can be difficult, but often the biggest challenge is getting started. This document is a brief guide to some of the critical issues you may encounter in exploring this option, and some initial resources to help navigate those issues.

Resources

These are a few starting points to get documents and help for your planned course.

- CUREnet is a network dedicated to this practice: <https://curenets.cns.utexas.edu/>
- CIRTL supports development of new practices: <https://www.cirtl.net/>
- Definitions of CUREs: Auchincloss, L. C.; Laursen, S. L.; Branchaw, J. L.; Eagan, K.; Graham, M.; Hanauer, D. I.; Lawrie, G.; McLinn, C. M.; Pelaez, N.; Rowland, S.; Towns, M.; Trautmann, N. M.; Varma-Nelson, P.; Weston, T. J.; Dolan, E. L. Assessment of Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences: A Meeting Report. *CBE-Life Sci. Edu.* 2014, 13, 29–40.
- Changing to a CURE: Clark, T. M.; Ricciardo, R.; Weaver, T. Transitioning from Expository Laboratory Experiments to Course-Based Undergraduate Research in General Chemistry *J. Chem. Educ.* 2016, 93, 56–63.
- An example of a large-scale CURE: Wang, J. T. H.; Daly, J. N.; Willner, D. L.; Patil, J.; Hall, R. A.; Schembri, M. A.; Tyson, G. W.; Hugenholz, P. Do you kiss your mother with that mouth? An Authentic Large-Scale Undergraduate Research Experience in mapping the human oral microbiome. *JMBE* 2015, 6, 50–60.



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Learn from your peers

There are now many iterations of research-inclusive courses across disciplines. While there are a myriad of routes to develop these courses, one common pathway follows. There is a linearity to these tasks but they can be executed in the order that suits you best.

Initial stages

1. Select research objectives and develop learning objectives from these.
2. Identify the course (new or converted) that will be used.
3. Select problem(s) to be investigated and techniques to be employed.
4. Plan the scope and scale of the course.

Administrative work

1. Solicit buy-in from appropriate administrator (e.g., department chair).
2. Identify needs, if any, beyond a conventional course and make the ask.
3. Assemble the necessary resources for the course (space, TAs, instrument time, etc.).
4. Assemble the necessary personnel (trained TAs, stockroom, faculty, etc.).
5. Devise any non-learning metrics of success.

Educational work

1. Using your objectives, design the course details (activities, assessment, etc.).
2. Develop an explicit plan to instruct students on research as an activity.
3. Include features that ensure the work is research (iteration, discovery, risk assessment, etc.).
4. Test the plan with a smaller group of students to ensure they are engaged in the targeted activities.

Execution

1. Be flexible in running the course; let the learning outcomes drive the curriculum.
2. Solicit feedback from students and/or faculty; any metrics of success.
3. Evaluate against your learning objectives and metrics of success.
4. Be prepared to make choices between research progress and student learning with attention to both.
5. Iterate the course and run again.

Talk about it!!
&
Ask for help.

Some peers who use CURE....

