

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING'S 5TH ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2016

Thank you all for the work you invested in ensuring the success of last week's Graduate Student Research Poster Competition. Your efforts as competitors, members of the judges' panel (*i.e.*, *Taher Abu-Lebdeh, Paul Akanga, Kassahun Asamene, Narayan Bhattarai, Pravin Chopade, Salil Desai, Christopher Doss, Frederick Ferguson, Svitlana Fialkova, Kenneth Flurchick, Hamid Ghanei, Manoj Jha, Vinayak Kabadi, Ali Karimoddini, Youngmi Koo, Ruben Kotoka, Dhananjay Kumar, Daniel Limbrick, Matthew McCullough, Ahmed Megri, Nabil Nassif, Robert Newman, Xiuli Qu, Kaushik Roy, Younho Seong, Letchuman Sripragash, Matthew Terwillegar, Divi Vekateshwaralu, Sun Yi*), as part of the organizing team, and as faculty and staff attendees – made the competition a memorable experience. Thank you all.

I also wish to express a special thank you to Bala Ram, Julia Bryant, Mary Holloway, Rodney Westmoreland, Troy McLaughlin, Romaine Foreman, Kelly Morgan, Tess Jones, Elizabeth Brooks, Courtney Chavis, Greg Hampton, and Lenora Kirby for your dedication and planning.

To all of our graduate student competitors: You all did an exceptional job and we are very proud of you. While the official selection of winning posters is limited to four, please know that in our eyes you are all successful. You each did an excellent job presenting yourselves and your research, and I continue to hear compliments regarding your collective performance. I am looking forward to continued conversations about your research progress and to seeing your entries in next year's competition.

As you anticipated, all scores have now been tallied. It was a close competition. It is now my pleasure to announce that the winners of our 2015 competition are:

- **PhD winner (\$500): Mina Moradi Kordmahalleh** (advised by Dr. Abdollah Homaifar) for the poster entitled “A sparse recurrent neural network for trajectory prediction of Atlantic hurricanes”
- **PhD runner-up (tie) (\$350 each): Muhammed Imam** (advised by Dr. Trisha Sain) for the poster entitled “Bioinspired Interlocking Micro-architecture Design in Polymer Composites for Impact Resistant Applications”, and **Rafael Patrick** (advised by Dr. Steven Jiang) for the poster entitled “Bone Conduction Equal-Loudness: An Evaluation of Transducer Dependency, Signal Presentation Mode, and Binaural Symmetry”
 - Honorable Mention to these three PhD-level competitors and their advisors (in parenthesis): Saina Ramyar (Dr. Abdollah Homaifar), Samuel Chapman (Dr. Dukka KC), and Abolhasan Hashemisohi (Dr Lijun Wang)
- **MS winner (\$400): Nava Rijal** (advised by Dr. Narayan Bhattarai) for the poster entitled “Innovative Processing of Polycaprolactone-based Electrospun Nanofibrous Scaffold”
- **MS runner-up (tie) (\$250 each): Rand Talib** (advised by Dr. Nabil Nassif) for the poster entitled “Prediction and Optimization of Chilled Water Cooling Coil Performance Using Artificial Neural Network Model”, and **Smita Deshmane** (advised by Dr. Jinsheng Xu) for the poster entitled “Artist Recommendation System”
 - Honorable Mention to these three MS-level competitors and their advisors (in parenthesis): Isaiah Dais (Dr. Lauren Davis), Cameron Pearson (Dr. Frederick Ferguson), and Wisdom Hokey (Dr. Shoou-Yuh Chang)

Congratulations to the 2016 winners!

NOTE: For the College to process the prize checks, it is necessary for each winner to complete a W-9 form. Ms. Mary Holloway (Email: mghollow@ncat.edu; or Suite 651, McNair Hall) is your contact for that form and its submission. Congratulations to each of you!