

THE 30TH ANNUAL LIFE & HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH EXPO

ACKNOWLEDGING EXEMPLARY RESEARCH AND LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

MAY 4, 2023

Award recipients

The Life and Health Sciences Research Expo acknowledges exemplary research and learning activity at the University of Saskatchewan and is an annual showcase of the interdisciplinary health science research taking place on campus and throughout the province.

Special thanks to all presenters, adjudicators, and to the review committee for helping celebrate outstanding research, collaboration, and mentorship within the health sciences.

For more information about the Life and Health Sciences Research Expo, please visit healthsciences.usask.ca/expo.

BEST PAPER

Best Basic Science Paper

A neglected and emerging antimicrobial resistance gene encodes for a serine-dependent macrolide esterase

Recipient: Poonam Dhindwal, Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Supervisor: Dr. Tony Ruzzini, PhD

Best Translational, Clinical, or Applied Science Paper

Distinct effects of treatment with two different interferon-alpha subtypes on HIV-1-associated T-cell activation and dysfunction in humanized mice

Recipient: Saurav Rout, College of Medicine

Supervisor: Dr. Kerry Lavender, PhD

Best Social & Population Health Paper

Modeling obesity rate with spatial auto-correlation: A case study

Recipient: Masud Rana, College of Medicine

Supervisors: Dr. Punam Pahwa, PhD and Dr. Shahedul Khan, PhD

BEST SUPERVISOR

Recipient: Dr. Hassan Vatanparast, MD, PhD

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, School of Public Health (joint appointment)

Nominated by: Mojtaba Shafiee

RESEARCH PRESENTATION COMPETITION

Graduate students, undergraduate students, post-doctoral researchers, as well as dentistry and medical residents were invited to submit an abstract in order to participate in the Life and Health Sciences Research Expo presentation competition. Presenters competed against each other online in cohorts based on alignment with the following research categories: Basic Science; Translational, Clinical, or Applied Science; and Social & Population Health.

Basic Science 1

First place: Cameron Morse

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Supervisors: Dylan Olver, Corey Tomczak

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30th Annual Life & Health Sciences Research Expo

AWARD RECIPIENTS PAGE 2

Second place: Marina Carla Bezerra da Silva
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Supervisors: Sarah C. Wood, Elemir Simko

Basic Science 2

First place (tie): Megha Rohamare
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Joyce Wilson

First place (tie): Ashley Sutherland
College of Medicine
Supervisor: C. Ronald Geyer

Second place: Oghenevwogaga Joseph Atake
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Brian Eames

Basic Science 3

First place: Ansalna Ansari
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Michael Levin

Second place: Todd Stang
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Michael Levin

Basic Science 4

First place: Narsimha Pujari
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Supervisor: Adelaine Leung

Second place: Asmaa Fadl
College of Dentistry
Supervisor: Andrew Leask

Basic Science 5

First place: Jordan Bairos
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Scott B. Widenmaier

Second place: Victoria Gonzalez
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Supervisor: Arinjay Banerjee

Translational, Clinical, or Applied Science 1

First place: Hemlata Gautam
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Supervisor: Susantha Gomis

Second place: Emmarie Racine Hallin
College of Kinesiology
Supervisors: Alison Oates, Lauren Lattimer

Translational, Clinical, or Applied Science 2

First place: Sara Ness
College of Medicine
Supervisors: John Gordon, Don Cockcroft

Second place: Fatima Masood
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Supervisors: Antonio Ruzzini, Sarah Wood

Translational, Clinical, or Applied Science 3

First place: Pratyusha Chitturi
College of Dentistry
Supervisor: Andrew Leask

Second place: Yaasin Dulymamode
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Supervisor: Joseph E. Rubin

Social & Population Health 1

First place: Michele Monroy-Valle
School of Public Health
Supervisor: Hassan Vatanparast

Second place: Heather Alford
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Supervisors: Allison Cammer, Paulette Hunter

Social & Population Health 2

First place: Tayah Zhang
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Stacey Lovo

Second place: Mojtaba Shafiee
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Supervisor: Hassan Vatanparast



30th Annual Life & Health Sciences Research Expo

AWARD RECIPIENTS PAGE 3

Undergraduate Research 1

First place: Stefanie Kiriazopoulos
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Supervisor: Jason Perepelkin

Second place: Kaitland Fior
College of Arts & Science
Supervisor: Michael Levin

Undergraduate Research 2

First place: Ryan Chan
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Supervisor: Katelyn Halpape

Second place: Kenzie Halter
College of Arts & Science
Supervisor: Robert B. Laprairie

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AWARDS

Based on the quality of the research presented, additional awards were presented for achievement aligning with the following themes:

COVID-19 Pandemic Research, Response, and/or Outreach

Recipient: Stefanie Kiriazopoulos
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Supervisor: Jason Perepelkin

Recipient: Megha Rohamare
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Joyce Wilson

Indigenous Health Research

Recipient: Tayah Zhang
College of Medicine
Supervisor: Stacey Lovo

Interdisciplinary/Interprofessional Collaboration

Recipient: Ashley Burghall
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Supervisor: Holly Mansell

Recipient: Dena Burnett
School of Rehabilitation Science
Supervisor: Stephan Milosavljevic

Recipient: Hemlata Gautam
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Supervisor: Susantha Gomis

Sustainable Progress

Sustainability & People: Samy Abdullah
School of Public Health
Supervisors: Hassan Vatanparast, Michael Szafron

Sustainability & Planet: Michele Monroy-Valle
School of Public Health
Supervisor: Hassan Vatanparast

The Student's Award

Recipient: Anurag Sakharkar
College of Medicine
Supervisors: Changiz Taghibiglo, Jian Yang

Winning nominator: Khan Faizaan

