Rising Scientist Day 2017

This year the Department of Medicine hosted the ‘Rising Scientist Day’ on the 6th February at the Hammersmith Campus. We have hosted a similar event in previous years titled ‘Young Scientist Day’ which was hugely popular amongst PhD students and we have developed the Rising Scientist Day to try and incorporate even more postgraduate students within Medicine.

Rising Scientist Day saw two competitions taking place throughout the day. The morning was dedicated to a poster competition in which all research students within the Department of Medicine were invited to present their recent work to their colleagues and judges.

PhD students talk the judges and fellow attendees through their posters.

The posters presented were all very engaging and after two rounds of judging the three winners of the competition were as follows:

Yoann Aldon ‘Rational Design of HIV-1 Env Membrane Expressed Stabilized Trimers” (1st place)

Eyal Soreq ‘Multiplex functional connectivity patterns encodes for task specificity’ (2nd place)
Christine Styles ‘Epstein-Barr Virus –via oncoproteins EBNA3A and EBNA3C – repress the plasma cell differentiation pathway during establishment of latency in B cells ‘(3rd place)

The afternoon saw a 3-minute thesis competition taking place. Each PhD student partaking has been formally nominated by a section cohort leader to represent their section. The competitors were tasked with communicating their research in 3 minutes or under to an audience filled with different members of the department. Academic supervisors and masters students were also invited to the afternoon session and we encouraged master’s students thinking about PhD study to stay for the Postdoc talks.

Before the winners were announced we also enjoyed a series of talks from postdocs within the Department of Medicine. William Jackson, Mary Alkain and Ed Chambers spoke about the transition from a PhD student to a Postdoc and gave some interesting and honest advice about careers in academia.

First place was awarded to Pavandeep Ghataorhe and this year's runners up were Mariana Norton and Deena Iskander. Mariana Norton will compete in the college’s ‘three minute thesis competition’ hosted by the Graduate School. We wish Mariana the best of luck.

Pavandeep accepts first prize from Professor Kevin Murphy, Director of Postgraduate studies.
We ended the day with a networking drinks event for all attendees and students and celebrated the impressive work of the PhD students within the Department of Medicine.

Rising Scientist Day would not have been possible without the generous support of the Graduate School who provided funding for the prizes and refreshments throughout the day in support of the day’s cohort building activities. We would like to take this opportunity to also thank Professor Kevin Murphy and Dr. Nesrina Imami for their assistance on the day and all the Postdocs involved with judging.

We look forward to next year’s Rising Scientist Day.

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