



The First Annual Journal of Young Investigators Virtual Poster Competition was inspired by the need to promote undergraduate-level research experiences. In order to tell others about their research, students ordinarily have to attend a scientific conference and give an oral or poster presentation. Although it is highly encouraged that students attend such scientific and professional meetings, a downside to this approach is that more often than not these conferences are located far away from their universities and/or require a substantial registration fee. Furthermore, it is often very difficult, and sometimes infeasible, for an undergraduate-level student to describe their research to those outside the bounds of the conference they attend. At JYI, our goal is to provide a platform so that any undergraduate, regardless of their socioeconomic status, nationality, or university, can tell others about their research. As a consequence of this philosophy, JYI embarked on establishing the First Annual Journal of Young Investigators Virtual Poster Competition, an online poster session featuring students from around the world. How did it work? Using YouTube.com, undergraduate-level students were asked to submit a written registration form and video response to a JYI advertisement announcing the poster session event. In the response, the students were requested to submit a video of themselves, either at home, school, or at a conference, describing their research in roughly 5 minutes using a poster or slideshow presentation. In total, over 55 submissions were received for the competition. In order to fairly rank the poster presentations, each student was scored in a variety of

categories including 1) the ability to convey multifaceted knowledge with ease to an audience, 2) the research level and complexity, 3) the ability to critically analyze the science and develop intricate conclusions, 4) the development and description of a carefully developed research plan, and 5) the overall presentation of their research. Although all of the presentations were of extraordinary quality, ten students exhibited superior presentation and research abilities.

First Place Grand Prize Winner: K. B. Ashok

West Bengal University of Health Sciences, India

Presentation: Tobacco Traps Teenagers

Award: \$150 USD cash prize and special editorial

(For more information on Mr. K.B. Ashok, please see biography)

Second place: Veena Bheeman

Vinayaka Mission's University

Presentation: Differential Leucocyte Count and Morphology of Neutrophils in HIV/AIDS patients

Award: JYI T-shirt, pen and coffee cup

Third place: Aman Opneja

Delhi University

AMAN OPNEJA – Evaluation of ELISA and RT-PCR of Cell Culture Supernatant for Dengue Virus Detection

Award: JYI T-shirt, pen and coffee cup

Other Recognized Presentations.

K.V.Prabhu (Neonatal Sepsis- A Threat in Hospitals)

Tanvi Anil Rege (A Study of Depression and Cognitive Impairment in Hypertensive Elderly))

Vivek Tiwari (Cognition – Sex and Handedness)

Satwant Kumar (Polyphasic Sleep)

Riddhi Patira (Assessment of Socio-Demographic profile of substance abusers attending

Psychiatric and Deaddiction center, Anandnagar, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

All award winners and recognized presenters will be listed on JYI's website and included in JYI's first print publication, "Best of JYI 2009." If you would like to view all of the entrants of this year's competition, please click on

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdtKWs21Qt4&feature=related> and view the video responses.