



A NATIONAL SCIENCE  
COMPETITION FOR YOUNG  
WOMEN SCIENTISTS ACROSS  
CANADA (2021)

40  SCWIST  
40 YEARS OF STEM IMPACT



# Messages



**Dr Noeen Malik**

Chair and Lead

SCWIST Science Symposium

**As a Chair and Lead** of SCWIST Science Symposium, I would like to say thanks to all students who participated in this competition. When I conceptualized this idea, the only thing in my mind was how it might benefit the undergraduate and graduate students? My own experience as a student in the laboratory helped me to channelize it for successful execution. It was amazing to see it blossoming when it received participation of 88 students from 38 universities / institutes across Canada (9 Provinces).

I congratulate to the top 3 winners and wish all the best. My message for other students is to not lose hope. World does not end here. All abstracts were highly competitive and we had to select only top three overall.

Stay enthusiastic and determined in what you like to achieve in life.



**Ashley van der Pouw Kraan**

Vice Chair and Co-Lead

SCWIST Science Symposium

**As the Vice Chair and Co-Lead** of the Science Symposium, I am honoured to welcome you all the the inaugural event.

The Science Symposium provides a unique and long-overdue opportunity for young scientists: a platform to present and discuss their work with students and professors in their field from across the country, all while contributing to their professional development and growth.

I would like to thank each student who submitted an abstract for taking the time to share your ideas, knowledge and expertise with us. You are making the world a better, brighter place for future generations.

Best of luck to all, and hope you all enjoyed the event!



# Symposium Board Committee



**Dr. Thomas J Ruth**

Emeritus Professor,  
Department of Medicine, UBC  
Emeritus Scientist, TRIUMF & BCCRC  
Fellow of Royal Society of Canada

Category: Drug Discovery — Oncology & Neuroscience



**Dr. Isabel Trigger**

Senior Scientist, TRIUMF  
Adjunct Professor, University of Victoria

Category: Physical Science — Particle Physics



**Dr. Bethany Edmunds**

Board Member, Women in Machine Learning,  
Director of Computer Science,  
Northeastern University

Category: Machine Learning — Artificial Intelligence



**Dr. Monica Granados**

Policy Advisor  
Environment and Climate Change, Canada  
Scientific Data Scientist (Federal & Municipal Dept.)

Category: Global Warming — Earth and Environmental  
Science



**Dr. Sara Mahshid**

Assistant Professor  
Bioengineering, McGill University

Category: Bioengineering/technology —  
Biosensing



# Symposium Judges (Round#2)

Category: Bioengineering/technology — Biosensing



**Dr. Brittany Pequegnat**

Tetanus Toxoid vaccine  
manufacturing Expert  
Sanofi Pasteur, Canada



**Dr. Anjana Govindarajan**

Director & Strategic Business  
Consultant  
ANRS Consulting Inc., Canada

Category: Drug Discovery — Oncology & Neuroscience



**Dr. Aashima Khosla**

Research Scientist,  
QuadroCore  
Canada



**Maria S Athanassiou, PhDc**

Biomedical Science  
University of Montreal, Canada  
Medical Science Liaison, Canada  
MPH Public Health, UK

Category: Global Warming — Earth and Environmental Science



**Claris Canta (MSc, Australia)**

Internal Systems Coordinator  
Student Energy  
Canada



**Cecilia Sierra-Heredia  
MSc, MA (UBC)**

Lecturer  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
SFU Canada



# Symposium Judges (Round#2)

Category: Machine Learning — Artificial Intelligence



**Dr. Nidhi Rastogi**

Research Scientist  
Rensselaer Polytechnic  
Institute, USA



**Dr. Gabriella Pizzuto**

Postdoc Research Associate  
University of Liverpool, UK

Category: Physical Science — Particle Physics



**Dr. Nedaa-Alexandra Asbah**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Harvard University, USA



**Dr. Otilia Ducu**

Senior Research Fellow  
CERN, Switzerland  
IFIN-HH, Romania



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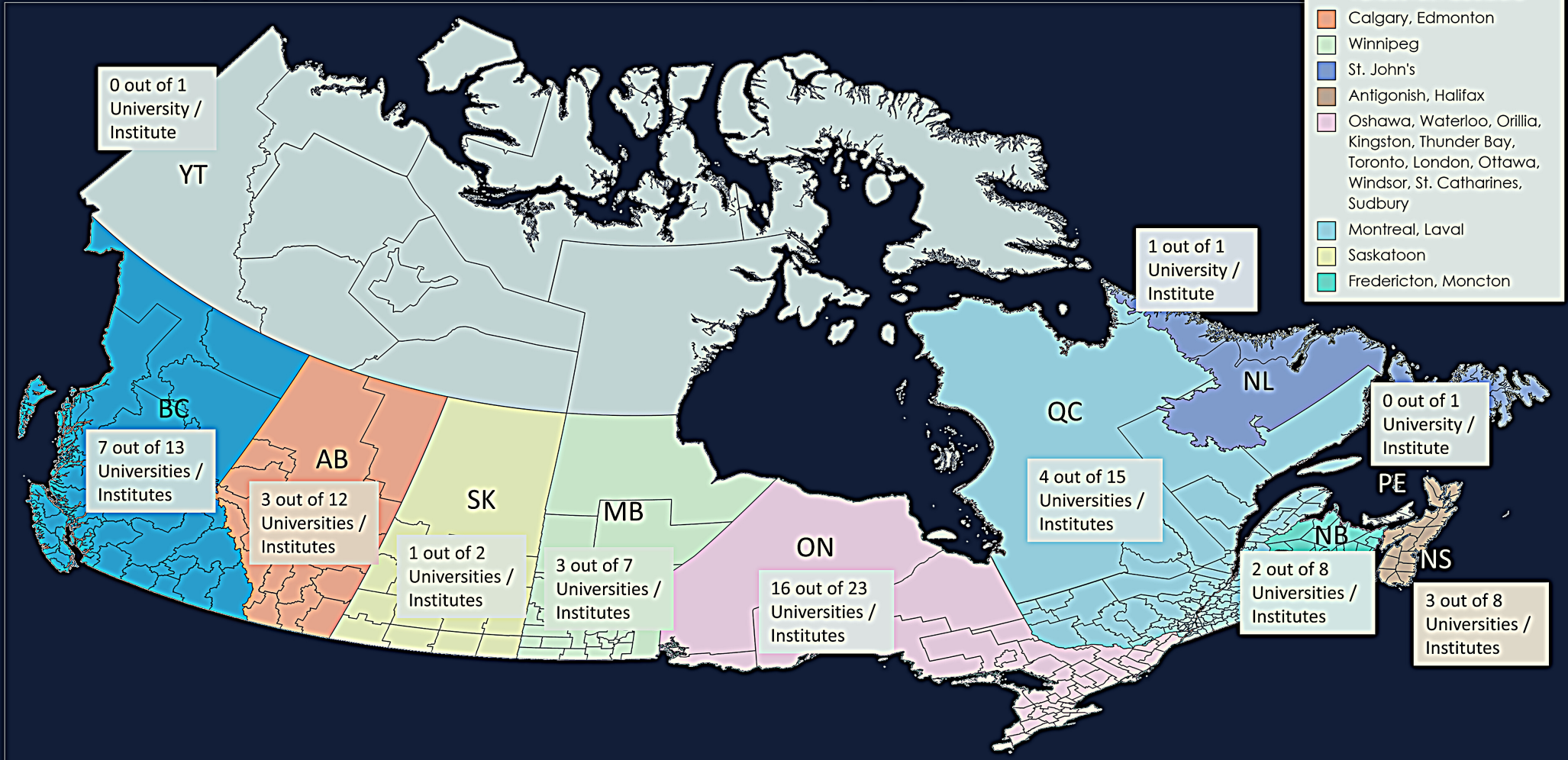
PRIZES / GIFTS	AMOUNT
First Prize (Robin Hayes)	\$1500
Second Prize (Kristen Hayward)	\$1000
Third Prize (Jaime Korner)	\$750
12 Finalists Cash Prize (150\$ each)	\$1800
10 Judges Gift Cards (100\$ each)	\$1000
5 Committee Members (Gift Cards)	\$500
15 Finalists 20\$ Starbucks Gift Cards	\$300



# STATISTICS

## SCWIST Science Symposium (National Science Competition in Canada)

- **Input:** 91 Universities / Institutes (from 11 provinces) were contacted across Canada (via 280 emails to ca. 1500 \*Scientists)
- **Students’ Response:** 88 Abstract-Submissions (from 38 universities/institutes and 9 provinces)



Category	Institutes/ Universities	Provinces
Global Warming — Earth and Environmental Science	16	5
Machine Learning — Artificial Intelligence	15	6
Drug Discovery— Oncology & Neuroscience	16	7
Physical Science — Particle Physics	9	5
Bioengineering/technology — Biosensing	8	5



# TOP 15 FINALISTS

Category: Bioengineering/technology — Biosensing



**Anat Usatinsky**  
Ryerson University  
Canada



**Tofa Begum**  
INRS-Institut Armand  
Frappier Health  
Biotechnology, Canada



**Gagan Gill**  
Wilfrid Laurier University,  
Canada

Category: Drug Discovery — Oncology & Neuroscience



**Jaime Korner**  
University of Victoria  
Canada



**Tanya Saxena**  
University of British  
Columbia, Canada



**Melissa D'Amaral**  
Ryerson University  
Canada

Category: Machine Learning — Artificial Intelligence



**Banafshe Felfeliyan**  
University of Calgary  
Canada



**Jueqi Wang**  
St. Francis Xavier University  
Canada



**Veena Logithasan**  
University of Alberta  
Canada



# TOP 15 FINALISTS

Category: Physical Science — Particle Physics



**Robin Hayes**  
TRIUMF/UBC,  
Canada



**Shahrzad Taherizadegan**  
University of Calgary,  
Canada



**Danika MacDonell**  
University of Victoria,  
Canada

Category: Global Warming — Earth and Environmental Science



**Amy Heim**  
Saint Mary's University,  
Canada



**Kristen Hayward**  
Queen's University,  
Canada



**Dilrukshi K Liyanage**  
University of Alberta,  
Canada



# ABSTRACTS

## (Alphabetical Order, First Name)

1

Abir Rahali (University of New Brunswick)

Didroid: Android Malware Classification And Characterization Using Deep Image Learning

2

Abir Rahali (Université de Moncton)

Malbert: Using Transformers For Cybersecurity And Malicious Software Detection

3

Abir Rahali (Université de Moncton)

Automatic Misogyny Detection In Social Media Platforms Using Attention-Based Bidirectional-LSTM

4

Alexandra Schoen (University of Manitoba)

Simulated Heatwave And Fishing Stressors Alter Corticosteroid And Energy Balance In Neonate Blacktip Reef Sharks, *Carcharhinus Melanopterus*.

5

Alice Santilli (Queen's University)

Domain Adaptation And Self-Supervised Learning For Surgical Margin Detection

6

Alicia Howse (University of Ottawa)

Drains Vs Natural Streams: A Comparison Of Fish Communities In The South Nation Watershed

7

Alisha Szozda (University of Ottawa)

Investigating Educators' Perspectives Toward Systems Thinking In Chemistry Education Approaches

8

Alix Tole (Red River College/ University of Winnipeg)

Feasibility Study For The Incineration Of Municipal Solid Waste For Norway House, Manitoba

9

Amy Heim (Saint Mary's University)

Variation In Environmental Stress And Heterogeneity Led To The Development Of Distinct Green Roof Plant Communities

10

Anastasiia Stepanchuk (University of Calgary)

Shedding More Light On Alzheimer's Disease: Enhanced Detection Of Protein Aggregates Using Novel Photophysical Properties Of K114



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Anat Usatinsky (Ryerson University)

Engineering Protein Reagents Towards The Development Of A Portable Immunoassay To Detect SARS-Cov-2 Neutralizing Antibodies

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Ashley Elgersma (The King's University)

The Sounds Of Spectra – Combining Auditory And Visual Modes To Facilitate Understanding The Chemistry Of Climate Change

13

Auriane Canesse (McGill University)

First Observation Of WYY Triboson Production In Proton-Proton Collisions.

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Banafshe Felfeliyan (University of Calgary)

Toward Accurate MRI Bone And Cartilage Segmentation In Small Data Sets Via An Improved-Mask-R-CNN: Data From The Osteoarthritis Initiative

15

Caitriona Douglas (Dalhousie University)

EEG Methods For Detecting Neural Markers During Conversation

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Carolyn Jaworski (University of Alberta)

Reducing Protodeboronation In The Late Stage Copper-Mediated 18F-Fluorination Using Novel Boronic Esters

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