

JURA

NSERC CREATE Summer Student Symposium • August 2012 • Vol. 2, No. 1

Letter to the Authors

Herzog, W

For several years now, graduate students from the biomedical engineering program and trainees from the NSERC sponsored CREATE training program of "biomedical engineers for the 21st century" have organized an undergraduate research day. The aim of this research day is to provide summer students with an opportunity to present their research in a forum of peers and faculty members.

When first organizing this three years ago for CREATE trainees, I thought that this research day would serve two distinct purposes. The first was to provide the undergraduate summer students with the opportunity (and challenge) to make a formal scientific presentation, maybe the first such opportunity ever, and second to force them to think about, and summarize, what they had accomplished during their summer training term.

Having seen this research day evolve over the years, I was struck by two things this year; first, the very competent, professional and polished presentations by the undergraduate students, their poise and confidence in standing in front of peers and scientists, and second, the quality of their research, with several of them presenting projects that resembled MSc thesis presentations rather than just four months summer projects. I was terribly impressed; therefore big congratulations to the summer students and kudos to their supervisors for providing these incredible experiences.

This year, the symposium was organized in two parallel tracks with two sessions each. The presentations were judged for scientific content and the presentation itself and the following winners emerged; congratulations to them all: Alexandra Pulwicki, Amanda Chan, Miles Hunter, Stephanie Vetsch, and Esther Zoller.

Last but by no means least, I would like to recognize the graduate students from the Biomedical Engineering and the NSERC CREATE training program who organized this year's research day, and made sure we were treated to excellent science and great food. These were: Emily Bishop, Quinn Thompson, Bernd Friesenbichler, Ryan Madden, Estee Lee, and Britta Jorgenson.

Until next summer

Walter Herzog