



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate
Research and Inquiry

Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry

2026 Poster People's Choice Award Symposium Winners

Session I

1st Place **Student Presenters:** Stella Potenti, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Research or Creative Category: Health & Medical Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Rodrigues, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Presentation Title: *Identification of Early Dose-Dependent Molecular Changes in Mouse Hearts after Exposure to the Anthracycline Doxorubicin by Gene Expression Analysis*

2nd Place **Student Presenters:** Brielle Walter, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters
Research or Creative Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Anne van Zelst, College of Education
Presentation Title: *Beyond Practice: Examining the Effects of Post-Practice Daytime Sleep and Quiet Rest on Speech-Motor Learning*

Session II

1st Place **Student Presenters:** Ryan Nagy, Yasmine Duran, Jeff Debrine, Joshua Raia, Miloura Octama, & Jennifer Okoro, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Research or Creative Category: Environmental, Ecological & Marine Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Xing-Hai Zhang, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Presentation Title: *Understanding the Microbial Community Composition in Sugarcane Cultivated in Muck and Sandy Soils in South Florida*

2nd Place **Student Presenters:** Enzo Barrella, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Research or Creative Category: Health & Medical Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Massimo Caputi, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Sean Paz, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Presentation Title: *Study of the Regulation Splicing of the Transduction Adaptor MYD88*

Session III

1st Place **Student Presenters:** Aien V Serrano, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Research or Creative Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Gary Perry, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Presentation Title: *The Primate Architecture of Empathy*



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate
Research and Inquiry

2nd Place **Student Presenters:** Puja Perumalraja, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Research or Creative Category: Environmental, Ecological & Marine Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Marianne Porter, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Presentation Title: *3D Reconstruction & Analysis of Shark Olfactory Rosettes: Quantifying Morphological Variation to Understand Sensory Function & Ecological Adaptation*

Session IV

1st Place **Student Presenters:** Jonas Putigna, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Research or Creative Category: Environmental, Ecological & Marine Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Zhu-Lin Xie, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Presentation Title: *The Role of Pendant Amine Groups in Electrocatalytic CO₂ Reduction*

2nd Place **Student Presenters:** Lal Celik & Taran Kesharaju, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Research or Creative Category: Basic Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Necibe Tuncer, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Presentation Title: *Temperature-Dependent Within-Vector Viral Dynamics and Transmission Potential of West Nile Virus*