

Fall 2021

The 4th Annual Undergraduate Fall Symposium Category Winners

West Virginia University

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The 4th Annual Undergraduate Fall Symposium Category Winners

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Science & Technology (12 presentations)

Winner: Trevor Smith presented: *Gemini Telepresence Robot System Design*. Mentor: Yu Gu. Trevor is a Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering major at WVU and participates in the [EXCEL](#) program.

Runner-Up: Kelly Hanlon presented: *The Effect of Sheep Breed on Immune Cell Response to Lipopolysaccharide Stimulation in Vitro*. Mentor: Scott Bowdridge. Kelly is an Animal and Nutritional Sciences major at WVU and participates in the [Research Apprenticeship Program \(RAP\)](#).

Human Engagement (9 presentations)

Winner: Michael Duong presented: *How Poetry Can Influence Certain Voices in Martin Luther King Jr.'s Speeches and Papers*. Mentor: Timothy Sweet. Michael is a Creative Writing and Entrepreneurship major at WVU and participates in the [Research Apprenticeship Program \(RAP\)](#).

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Physical Sciences and Engineering (6 presentations)

Winner: Michelle Wunder presented: *External factors impacting the aggregation of proteins associated with Huntington's disease*. Mentor: Justin Legleiter. Michelle is a Biology major at WVU and participates in the [Research Apprenticeship Program \(RAP\)](#).

Biology, Biochemical & Environmental Sciences (10 presentations)

Winner: Shelby May presented: *Examining the Link Between Gsx1 and Efnb2a Expression in the Zebrafish Visual System*. Mentor: Sadie Bergeron. Shelby is a Neuroscience major at WVU.

Health Sciences and Community Health (28 presentations)

Winner: Phillip Englund, presented: *Chronic Stress Increases the Production of Xanthine Oxidase in the Liver of C57BL/6J Mice*. Mentor: Paul Chantler. Phillip is an Exercise Physiology major at WVU and participates in the [Research Apprenticeship Program \(RAP\)](#).

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Runner-Up: Alexandra Benyola, presented: *Determining the effects of a weighted blanket in the MRI environment*. Mentor: Scott Galster. Alexandra is a Neuroscience major at WVU and participates in the [Research Apprenticeship Program](#) (RAP).

Runner-Up: Morgan Glass, presented: *Understanding radiation's potential in drug delivery across the blood-brain barrier*. Mentor: Paul Lockman. Morgan is Biochemistry at WVU, participated in the [Research Apprenticeship Program](#) and currently participates in the [EXCEL](#) program.

Social & Behavioral Sciences (16 presentations)

Winner: Alik Assi and Margaret Craw presented: *The Effects of Reward-Related Sensory Game Features on Simulated Online Gaming*. Mentor: Mariya Cherkasova. Both Alik and Margaret are majoring in Neuroscience at WVU.

Runner-Up: Nicholas Hatcher presented: *Parent Emotion-focused Practices and Child Emotion Regulation in PCIT with Toddlers*. Mentor: Cheryl McNeil. Nicholas is a Biology major at WVU and participates in the [Research Apprenticeship Program](#) (RAP).

Runner-Up: Jessica Benevides presented: *Differential Reinforcement of Hand Raising Also Reduces Talking Out in Classrooms*. Mentor: Claire St. Peter. Jessica is Psychology major at WVU.