

Merck Announces 2017 Life Science Awards Grand Prize Winners

Merck, a leading science and technology company, has recognized a group of outstanding postgraduate students for their research and innovations in life science at an awards ceremony at the company's new Life Science Center in Burlington, Boston, USA.



Left: Award winners Ruben R.G. Soares, Alexandra Rutz and Steffen Zobel-Roos after receiving their awards. Right: Award ceremony announcing Steffen Zobel-Roos as winner of LS Award Bioseparations

Twelve student finalists from across the globe (four in each of the three awards categories: bioseparations, 3D printing and food and beverage safety) presented their research to an audience of Merck leaders and guests. Steffen Zobel-Roos, Alexandra Rutz and Ruben R.G. Soares were each named winners of the grand prize in their respective categories.

“We are privileged to play a small role in advancing science and technology through these awards,” said Udit Batra, Member of the Merck Executive Board and CEO, Life Science. “I congratulate all of the winners on their projects. Their talents and imagination are already making an important contribution to the next generation of problem solvers.”

In its third year, this international awards competition recognizes postgraduate students from universities in the U.S., Canada and Europe who demonstrate outstanding achievement, skill and commitment to excellence in the life science field through innovative, cutting-edge research. Previously open only to students researching bioseparations, the competition was expanded in 2017 to include awards categories for 3D printing and food and beverage safety. Winning projects in each category were chosen based on level of innovation, impact on the industry, scientific rigor and communication.

Following are the grand prize winners and their research topics:

- **Steffen Zobel-Roos**, Clausthal University of Technology, Germany, Modern Chromatography: A Novel Integrated Counter Current Chromatography Step Fully Automated with Inline Concentration Measurements, Grand Prize Winner, LS Award Bioseparations
- **Alexandra Rutz**, University of Cambridge, UK, Engineering Hydrogel Inks for 3D Tissue and Organ Printing, Grand Prize Winner, LS Award 3D Printing
- **Ruben R.G. Soares**, University of Lisbon, Portugal, Towards the Development of Single-Step and Sub-Minute Need Device for the Routine Monitoring of Mycotoxins in Food Feeds, Grand Prize Winner, LS Award Food and Beverage Safety