

OPENING STATEMENT

Yale's 1st Postgraduate Research Symposium Recorded Transcript

Dominica Cao:

Good morning, good morning!

Thank you for joining us today for the inauguration of Yale's, first-ever, Postgraduate Trainee Research Symposium.

My name is Dominica Cao, and I, along with my colleague, Martin Rosenfeld, have been so happy, and honored to hand-in-hand co-chair this event. It brings us tremendous joy to have you all here with us today, as we collectively celebrate the well-earned research efforts and contributions that postgraduates offer to our Yale community.

And what is a postgraduate trainee, post-baccalaureate researcher, research assistant or technician? Part student - part employee? Part human - part mythology? It is curious that for a population at Yale that consists of over 200 in number, there has been no programming in place to foster the development, growth, and social wellbeing of these budding researchers. This problem, exacerbated by the pandemic's isolating nature, was what sparked the brilliant idea to, ex nihilo, without precedent, host our very own Postgraduate Research Symposium.

BUT, while it was this initial indignation that sparked the fire, it has not supplied the fuel. Instead, this event is fueled by excitement about research, curiosity for the new, and the steadfast tenacity of our dedicated organising committee. Martin and I, are indebted to our team, who, as a result of many months of hard work, have been able to put together a brilliant program for us all today. Applause for the organisers!

We would also be remiss if we did not recognise the efforts of our 45 postgraduate presenters today, our guest student and faculty panelists, our graduate student mentors, and our abstract reviewers. Thank you all for making this possible! Another round of applause!

Martin Rosenfeld:

We have an exciting line of short talks, long talks, and posters prepared for you all. Each category of talks was awarded on a competitive basis, and the postgraduate presenters have been workshopping their talks with an assigned graduate student in preparation for today. Thus, the talks and posters you will witness in just a few moments are the result of many hours of hard work. We hope that will enjoy the fruits of their labor.

In addition we have a thrilling Keynote Address by Dr. Frances E Jensen, chair of the neurology department at Upenn, expert in epilepsy, and amazing mentor. For all of our postgrad colleagues joining us today, we have a number of faculty and student panels from MD, MD-PhD, and PhD programs. All in all, the day is filled with exhilarating events, and we hope you all will take this opportunity to network, engage in professional development, and have fun!

However before we (have fun) (begin) I want to take the opportunity to thank all our sponsors, abstract reviewers, mentor matches, judges, panelists, keynote speaker, presenters, and attendees. Without you this event would not possible without you. In particular to our presenters and attendees, your attendance to this event is a great learning experience for our postgrads. We are incredibly grateful for your participation.