From around 40 applications, a shortlist of six doctoral students was chosen from the fields of Biological Sciences (non-human), Biomedical & Health Sciences and Physical Sciences to present a brief oral presentation of their research. Because only one application was received in the Earth Sciences category this year, no Earth Science award will be made. There is a $1000 cash prize in each of the Biological Sciences (non-human), Biomedical & Health Sciences and Physical Sciences categories for the best presentation. There is also a prize for the runners up.

The six finalists are as follows:

- **Biological Sciences (non-human)**
  - Katrin Hug
  - Niharika Sharma

- **Biomedical & Health Sciences**
  - Katie Ardipraja
  - Annie McAuley

- **Physical Sciences**
  - Hua Zhou
  - Liyo Jin

Each of the students was required to submit an abstract of their work. The abstracts on the following pages are printed without editing, in the submitted form. The Editorial Office of the *Proceedings* disclaims any responsibility for errors that may have been made in abstracts submitted by the authors.