2026 UNE COM Research and Scholarship Fall Forum Award Winners

Celebrating student research

We are pleased to recognize the following students and their mentors for their award-winning posters in Basic Science, Clinical, and Educational and Social Research.

Basic Science Research

1st place

Student Doctor Bethany Sargent, OMSII

Poster title: Inhibition of acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 4 in multiple myeloma

Mentor: Dr. Michaela Reagan

2nd place

Student Doctor Alexandra Dunstan, OMSII

Poster title: NAMPT Inhibition Blocks Macropinocytosis in TSC2-Deficient Kidney Cysts- A Novel Therapeutic Target for Tuberous Sclerosis Complex

Mentor: Harry Filippakis PhD

3rd place

Student Doctor Julia Japo, OMSII

Poster title: Temperature-Dependent Changes in Lymphatic Pumping and Forward Transport with Aging and TRPV4 Involvement

Mentor: Dr. Katarina Ruscic

Clinical Research

First place was awarded in a three-way tie to the following posters.

1st place — three-way tie

Student Doctor Olivia Salem, OMSII

Poster title: Favorable Clinical Outcomes with Incretin Receptor Agonists in Hidradenitis Suppurativa

Mentor: Santana VanDyke

1st place — three-way tie

Student Doctor Luke Mendola, OMSI and Student Doctor Ani Maroyan, OMSI

Poster title: Long-Term Outcomes of Periacetabular Osteotomy in a United States Cohort

Mentor: Michael Millis, MD

1st place — three-way tie

Student Doctor Sai Donepudi, OMSIII

Poster title: Evaluating the Feasibility of a Ketamine-Assisted, Community-Based Intervention for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

Mentor: Selma Holden, MD

2nd place

Student Doctor Dawson Turcotte, OMSIII, Student Doctor Sophia Moschella, OMSIII, Student Doctor Kevin Reale, OMSIII, and Student Doctor Luu Pham, OMSIII

Poster title: Optimizing Sevoflurane Emergence: A GasMan® Simulation Study of Factors Affecting Anesthetic Emergence and Time to MAC-Awake

Mentor: Kyle Scully PhD

3rd place

Student Doctor Peter King, OMSII

Poster title: Derivation and Validation of a Novel Prehospital Trauma Score: a Retrospective Analysis

Mentor: Esmaeil Bahalkeh

Educational and Social Research

1st place

Student Doctor Dalton Canonico, OMSIV

Poster title: Healthcare Access and Demographic Factor Influences on Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates

Mentor: Ling Cao MD, PhD

2nd place

Student Doctor Amal Siddiqui, OMSI

Poster title: Private Wells, Public Risk: Linking Water Contamination and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Mentor: Kevin Cornell

3rd place

Student Doctor Kevin Rodriguez, OMSII and Student Doctor Anders Elzey, OMSII

Poster title: Patterns of Hospital Closure and Service Loss Following Private Equity Acquisition in U.S. Acute Care Hospital

Mentor: Geoffrey McCullen MD, MS