Stony Brook University Chapter of
The National Academy of Inventors

Young Academic Inventor’s
Award Symposium

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

12pm Via ZOOM
Young Academic Inventor’s Award Symposium
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12:00 – 12:15 pm Opening Remarks

Sean Boykevisch, Executive Director, NAI-SBU Chapter
Peter Donnelly, Associate Vice President for Technology Partnerships
Stony Brook University
Iwao Ojima, President, NAI-SBU Chapter, NAI-Fellow

Award Lectures

12:15 – 12:40 pm Andrew Fesler, Senior Scientist, Curamir Therapeutics
“5-FU Modified Tumor Suppressor miRNA Cancer Therapeutics”
Moderator: Roger Johnson, NAI Member, NAI-SBU Executive Committee Member

12:45 – 1:10 pm Sina Rashidian, Data Scientist at Verily Life Sciences
“EyeCanDo: Eye Gaze-based Application to Help Patients with Severe Physical Conditions”
Moderator: Sanjay Sampath, NAI Member, NAI-SBU Executive Committee Member

1:15 – 1:40 pm Andrew LaBella, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Radiology, Stony Brook University Renaissance School of Medicine
“Prism-PET: A Clinically Viable, Cost-Effective Solution for High-Resolution and High-Sensitivity PET Imaging”
Moderator: Wei Zhao, NAI Member, NAI-SBU Executive Committee Member

1:45pm Closing Remarks
Wei Zhao, NAI Member, NAI-SBU Executive Committee Member
Dr. Andrew LaBella

Dr. Andy LaBella is currently an Imaging Physics Resident at Boston Children’s Hospital and a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Radiology at Stony Brook University School of Medicine. Dr. LaBella is working on the development and fabrication of medical imaging detectors for positron emission tomography (PET) in the Novel Medical Imaging Technologies (NMIT) lab under Dr. Amir Goldan. He received his B.Eng. in biomedical engineering and physics from Stony Brook University in 2016 and M.S. in biomedical engineering in 2018 and Ph.D. in biomedical engineering with a specialty in medical physics in 2020 from Stony Brook University. Dr. LaBella developed Prism-PET, a cost-effective, high resolution PET detector module aimed at bringing organ-specific and total-body PET imaging to the clinical environment.

Dr. Sina Rashidian

Dr. Sina Rashidian is currently a Data Scientist at Verily Life Sciences. He received his B.Sc in computer engineering from Sharif University of Technology, Teheran, Iran in 2015 and Ph.D in computer science from Stony Brook University in 2020. He joined Harvard Medical School/Mass General Hospital after graduation as a researcher. Dr. Rashidian’s passion is to advance artificial intelligence in healthcare using cutting-edge technology. His efforts led to designing a novel eye gaze-based application running on the iOS operating system which helps patients with severe physical conditions communicate and improves their quality of lives. He also developed a new data-driven approach to geocode healthcare data compatible with HIPAA regulations.

Dr. Andrew Fesler

Dr. Andrew Fesler is a Senior Scientist at Curamir Therapeutics Inc. He received his B.S. in biology from Manhattan College in 2011. He received his Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from Stony Brook University in 2018, working in the lab of Dr. Jingfang Ju in the Pathology Department. His research is focused on understanding the role of miRNA in cancer as well as the potential of miRNAs as therapeutics. Working with Dr. Ju, he developed a 5-FU modified miRNA with enhanced therapeutic effects. This modification is a platform technology that can be applied to various different miRNAs in several cancer types. Curamir Therapeutics licensed this technology in 2019 and Dr. Fesler joined the company in 2020 to continue working on the development of these modified miRNA therapeutics.
We thank the following sponsors who contributed funds for this event:

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