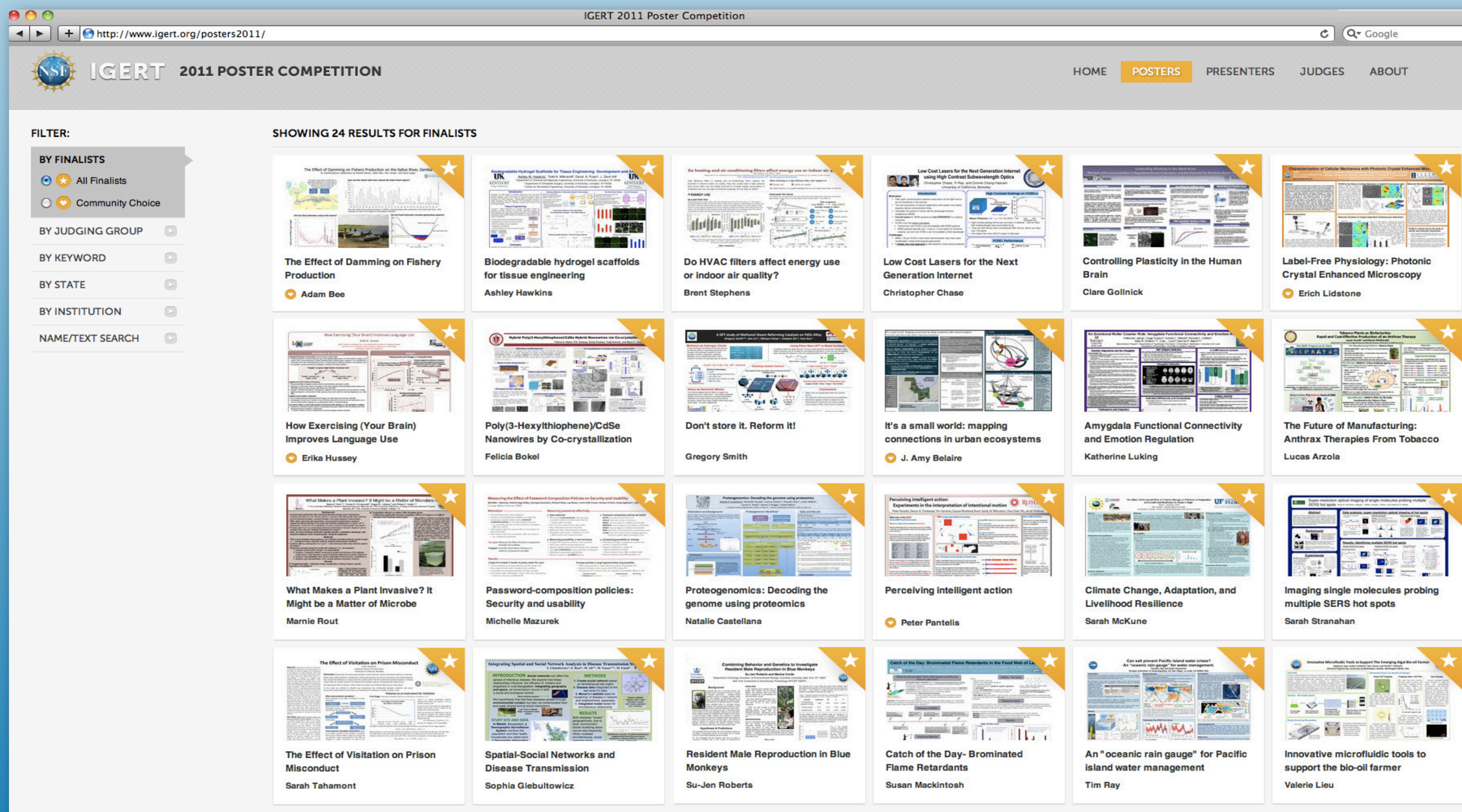




135 IGERT Trainees presented posters and audio narrations in an innovative, interactive online competition on IGERT.org. Today we feature the 24 finalists.



The competition is now archived and can be viewed at IGERT.org/Posters2011

All visitors will be able to view posters and hear the audio narration. IGERT.org members will also be able to view judges' comments and presenter replies as well as member comments.

What participants are saying:

Presenters' Comments

"The feedback from the community was insightful and very useful. In face-to-face poster sessions, it's often difficult to get that level of attention and thought from your audience."

"I was able to have more personal interactions with the judges, and to browse my fellow presenters' posters easily and by subject area."

"It was a much better use of time and resources. We could respond to comments at our leisure from our own homes or offices, rather than standing around for an hour or two at a place we had spent money to travel to. Much better!"

Judges' Comments

"Much more interactive surprisingly and vastly more thorough; easier to read; easier to take time and even come back multiple times."

"I had the opportunity to take in and study posters in the quietness and calmness of my own home, rather than standing in a poster session fighting through crowds and trying to concentrate with a lot of background noise."

"The benefit is that the face to face sessions were restricted so that only one faculty member and one trainee from each IGERT had the chance to see the posters. This system allows many more individuals to participate."

Participants' Comments

"I went online to look at my friend's poster only, but ended up looking at all of them because they were so professional and well done."

"Online allows everyone to see the posters and talk to the students, not just those that can go to the conference."

"I could stop and look at each poster for longer. I didn't have to see past the "crowd" to look at the poster. I could go look up additional info right away."

About the Competition:

NSF's first online IGERT poster competition took place on IGERT.org from May 3rd to May 6th 2011. The competition showcased the interdisciplinary research of 135 emerging scientists from 135 different funded IGERT projects. Each presenter prepared a poster and a three-minute audio narration. Fifty faculty members volunteered to judge the online competition and they selected 20 finalists. An additional four finalists were selected by the IGERT community (faculty, graduate students, alumni, project coordinators, and partners) through community choice votes. Finalists were announced on May 6th. All Finalists will participate in a career advancement day and present their posters in person on May 25th at the National Science Foundation.

The online platform was designed and facilitated at TERC, a nonprofit education research and development organization, and funded by the National Science Foundation. During the event, judges posted queries and presenters offered thoughtful replies. IGERT community members posted comments, voted for up to four posters which they found to be most meritorious, and participated in a live chat session. Customized activity feeds alerted judges, members, and presenters when relevant new content was posted and enabled them to track their activity throughout the competition.

Benefits of the online format:

Increased Participation

From May 2nd to May 7th there were...

- 5,389 unique visitors
- 834 unique IGERT.org members logged in
- 9,347 total visits
- 62,639 pageviews

Out of the 9,347 total visits, 5,858 were from guests and 3,489 were from logged in members.

Visits by Geographic Location



8,663 visits came from the United States. The other 684 visits came from 82 countries, including Canada (110), the United Kingdom (61), and India (48).

Increased Engagement

Average Time Spent on IGERT.org during the Poster Competition

- Presenters: 3 hours and 35 minutes
- Judges: 4 hours and 14 minutes
- Members: 22 minutes
- Guests: 8 minutes

Community Choice

- 607 members cast at least one community choice vote
- 1,109 total votes were cast
- Posters received 0-30 Community Choice Votes

Chat

- 2,071 messages were exchanged by 114 members

Queries, Replies, and Comments

- 1,353 total judges' queries and presenter replies
- 712 from judges
- 641 from presenters
- 592 comments from members

Audio

- Audio was accessed 4,003 times
- 1,269 times by guests
- 876 times by judges
- 717 times by members
- 1,141 times by presenters

