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To:

Professors Anil Pradhan and Tauheed Ahmad
Directors, Indo-US APJ Abdul Kalam STEM
Education and Research Center of OSU-AMU
Aligarh Muslim University, U.P. 202002, India

February 21, 2026

Ref: Introduction of "International E-poster Competition for Female Students in STEM" under the Indo-US APJ Abdul Kalam STEM Education and Research Center of OSU-AMU

Dear Prof Tauheed Ahmad and Prof. Anil Pradhan,

Assalamu alaikum.

This is the follow up of our successful "International E-Poster Competition for Female Students in STEM" 2025 that I am proposing formally to adopt as an annual program under the Indo-US APJ Abdul Kalam STEM Education and Research of the Ohio State University and Aligarh Muslim University. It has the crucial objective of our STEM Center which is to promote STEM research.

Please find attached the description and criteria of the competition that needs to be signed by both of you for institution.

With best regards and wishes,

Prof Sultana N. Nahar
Fellow of APS, BPS, BAS, TWAS-UNESCO
OSU Co-Director, Indo-US OSU-AMU APJAK STEM Education and Research Center
Honorary Professor, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan
Adjunct Professor, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA
Adjunct Professor, Department of Physics, Cairo University, Egypt
Adjunct Professor (UGC Scheme), Department of Physics, Aligarh Muslim University, India, 2017-2022, continuing as a visiting faculty

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One innovative pathway to bring research ideas of our inquisitive minds together is use of zoom or going online that emerged during the closings of COVID-19 pandemic. We have been implementing it successfully at the Center through a number of programs, such as, global research training, IWD symposium, promotional research projects. In 2025, we, ISMWS-AMU President and AMU Physics Ph.D. scholar Adiba and I, introduced another innovative scope for students activities, international E-Poster Competition, under the Indo-US STEM Education and Research Center of the Ohio State University (OSU), USA and Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), India. It does not cost any expenditure for the participants.

Adiba presented her idea of engaging female students with an e-poster competition to advertise ISMWS. Realizing the scope and value of it I formalize the idea for an international program in working with Adiba. We wanted to engage both the undergraduate students, who often do not have any research experience in most part of the world, and the Ph.D. and Master/M.Phil students who are carrying out research for their degrees. So we introduced two categories of e-posters, i) research that students are carrying out for their degrees, ii) concept of research projects with possible solutions largely for the undergraduate students.

Participants will submit the posters ahead of the competition and join for it over the zoom during the day or night depending on their locations. Names of the presenters will be replaced by coded names to avoid any partiality. Each participant will receive 3 minutes to present. We plan to hold the competition in September and announce the winners at the REU certification ceremony date of October 16.

With limited number of experts for all areas of STEM, I decided that the audience and participants would be the judges and put their scores based on the skill of presentation with clarity and importance of the project, and quality of the research indicated by presenter or the knowledge of the audience. Three winners will be selected from each category from the voting points. All winners will receive certificates stating their rankings. Rest of the participants will receive participation certificates.

Adiba prepared the google doc files for registration, poster submission, and collecting of scores from the audience. We advertised the announcement poster at the STEM Center, and electronically circulated the announcement to all personally known female students in STEM various campuses and to the International Society of Muslim Women in Science (ISMWS) network of females in 33 countries to participate and to spread the notice.



Director
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
STEM-ER Center
A M U. Aligarh

In 2025 competition, we received 50 posters submitted from Egypt, India, Saudi Arabia, and USA. Surprisingly about 20 came from the research group and about 30 from the idea group of undergraduates. The winners are listed below. **The best poster presenters in research category were**

- Monazzah Fatima of AMU, first place
- Safa Mohsen Abu Elmagd Ahmad of Cairo University, second place
- Aliza Quaisar of AMU, third place

In Idea and Concept of research category, the winners are

- Amber Khan of AMU, first place
- Fareha Hasan of AMU and Naaila Siddiqi of AMU, second place
- Maziya Pervez of AMU, third place

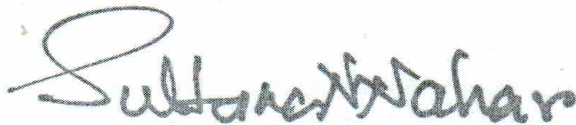
The list clearly displays the enthusiasm of AMU female students.

While all participants received electronic certificates, the Center needed to bear some expenses for the recognition certificates for all and plaques for the winners at AMU.

The event, which we plan to continue at the Center, revealed how eager female students are for STEM research and how the undergraduates are looking forward to it. We need to ignite this desire for scientific advances and international e-poster competition is one more convenient way for it.

- This program can be supported by an external grant, if available. The Center may provide some basic support, such as, office supplies, advertising with flyer, posters printing, presentation event.

I hope both of you will welcome the initiative. I believe, this scope will open up another dimension of activity under the research and globalization objectives of the STEM Center.



Prof Sultana N. Nahar



Director
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
STEM-ER Center