

## The Young Researchers' Challenge 2023

### Description

**During the Marcus Wallenberg Prize event a group of 31 young PhD and PostDocs were selected to participate in a three-day-program that connects young talented researchers with a focus on sharing inspiring forest-related research, stimulate collaboration, and create networking opportunities.**

This year's participants were from eight countries; Austria, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and US and represented 18 different universities or research institutes. The young researchers are able to participate **through the sponsorship of the [Erik Johan Ljungbergs Educational Foundation](#), universities and research institutes.**

The Young Researchers' program kicked off with a much appreciated and inspirational panel discussion with two of the MWP Laureates 2023, Drs. Joseph Buongiorno and Richard Haynes.

The inspirational talks continued with two presentations by MWP Young Researchers' Alumni; Rebecka McCarthy Tune, Sveaskog, who shared her work within the forest industry as a forest management specialist dealing with ongoing climate challenges, and Johan Erlandsson, Cellfion AB, who talked about how his cellulose-based research within clean-energy storage contributed to the formation of a start-up company. The Young Researchers also had the opportunity to listen to entrepreneurs, two start-up companies that both contribute to

making forest management more innovative and sustainable; Olle Gelin, AirForestry, who explained their innovative idea of using drones to offer fossil-free thinning from the air, and Adnan Avdagic, Arboair, showed how their technology offer a digitized, sustainable, precision forestry management system.

Olle Gelin, AirForestry  
Adnan Avdagic, Arboair

Rebecka Johansson, Cellfion  
McCarthy, Sveaskog AB

Lecturers at the MWP 2023  
Young Researchers' Program

On the second day of the program, the young researchers participated and presented their own research through 3MT presentations. In this event, members of the MWP Selection Committee participated and gave valuable insights to the young researchers. Both the committee and the young researchers ranked their favorite presentations and three presentations were awarded;

Jowan Rostami

Stefania Bertella

Yagmur Bas

1st prize – Jowan Rostami, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

2nd prize – Stefania Bertella, VTT Technical Research Center of Finland, Helsinki, Finland

3rd prize – Yagmur Bas, Luleå University of technology, Luleå, Sweden

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All 3MT presentations were filmed and the recordings are available at the Marcus Wallenberg Prize Youtube channel: [MWP Young Researchers's 3MT presentations 2023](#).

During the whole event, the young researchers displayed their research on posters, and a poster session took place in connection to the MWP Symposium. Three of the posters were awarded by the MWP Selection committee;

1. Neptun Yousefi, Aalto University, Finland
2. Mikko Valkonen, Aalto University, Finland
3. Rebecca Åström, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

To learn more about the Young Researchers's research projects read their abstracts that are available here: [Young Researchers's abstracts 2023](#).

In the evening, the young researchers attended the Marcus Wallenberg Prize Ceremony and Banquet, a memorable evening, and an excellent way to celebrate the Laureates and their accomplishments.

MWP 2023 Young Researchers from eight countries.

The third and final day of the program, the young researchers participated in the MWP Symposium, and the event concluded with interesting presentations from two research initiatives made by the Wallenberg Foundations; WISE – Wallenberg Initiative Material Science for Sustainability, which was presented by Magnus Berggren and WWSC – Wallenberg Wood Science Center, which Carl Moser presented.

Laureate Joseph  
Buongiorno

Prof Gert-Jan Nabuurs

Laureates Joseph  
Buongiorno & Richard  
Haynes

Prof Sten B Nilsson

Carl Moser

Magnus Berggren

**Panel discussion**

**Jussi Kumpula**, Managing  
Director, Metsätalutus

**Maximilian Schulte**, Young  
Researcher program, PhD  
student SLU

**Elisabet Salander**

**Björklund**, MWF board  
**Liisa Rohweder**, WWF  
Finland

The application period for the MWP Young Researchers' Challenge 2024 will open in early Spring of 2024. Stay tuned for more information!