

From: [CVRI-VT](#)
Subject: 2022 *Viridis Montis* Early Career Investigator Challenge Recap!
Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 10:11:49 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

CVRI Community,

The 3rd annual *Viridis Montis* Early Career Investigator Challenge successfully concluded on February 2nd, 2022. The competition was organized by the CVRI Early Career Advisory Committee and highlighted cardiovascular research conducted by early career investigators at the University of Vermont and UVM Health Network. The virtual event had 50+ attendees from the cardiovascular research community, including some from abroad.

This year we received a record number of abstracts and five Finalists were selected by an abstract review committee comprised of the members of the CVRI Early Career Advisory Committee, CVRI Board of Directors and Distinguished Investigators. The Finalists not only excelled in the merit-based scientific abstract competition, but also committed to cardiovascular wellness and service. This year's Finalists were diverse in career stage and background:

- **Ying Loo, BS.** Medical Student, Class of 2024, mentor Timothy Plante, MD.
- **William Middleton, BS.** PhD Candidate; Department of Experimental Psychology, mentor Diann Gaalema, PhD.
- **Maria Noterman-Soulinthavong, PhD.** Postdoctoral Associate; Department of Pharmacology, mentor Mark Nelson, PhD.
- **Lucy Pilcher, BS.** PhD Candidate; Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences, mentor Jeffrey Spees, PhD.
- **Samuel Short, BA.** Medical Student, Class of 2023, mentor Katharine Cheung, MD, PhD.

During the *Viridis Montis* competition, each Finalist delivered an oral presentation, followed by questions from our expert panel of local and guest judges.

- **Kara Landry, MD.** Fellow, Division of Hematology and Oncology. Former CVRI Early Career Advisory Committee member
- **Owen Nadeau, PhD.** Operations Administrator, Vermont Center for Cardiovascular and Brain Health
- **George Osol, PhD.** Professor Emeritus, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, CVRI Distinguished Investigator
- **Nadia Sutton MD, MPH.** Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Michigan. 2021 CVRI Rising Star Visiting Professor
- **Russell Tracy, PhD.** Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory medicine. UVM Distinguished Professor, CVRI Distinguished Investigator.

The competition was fierce. After thorough consideration on the quality of the written abstract and oral presentation, particularly the Finalists communication of science to a broad cardiovascular audience, the judges selected the following winners who received an award to be used towards their research.

First place in the 2022 *Viridis Montis* Early Career Investigator Challenge was **Lucy Pilcher, BS** from the Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences program, with a talk entitled "Loss of Snord116 lncRNA reduces pathological remodeling after myocardial infarction in mice."

There was a tie for second place with **Maria Noterman-Soulinthavong, PhD** and **Samuel Short, BA**.

Please join us in congratulating all participants on presenting an excellent showcase of cardiovascular science and research!

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