

PRIZE FOR AQUACULTURE NUTRITION RESEARCH STUDENTS

SPAROS is launching a prize for students that are conducting their research on aquaculture nutrition for fostering the use of nutritional-based mathematical simulation on their work. We believe these will be part of the toolset of aquaculture nutrition experts to support the development of new aquafeed formulations, and the long-term effects of novel ingredients on fish performance and environment, like it already happens in the land-based agro-industry. For this purpose, the FEEDNETICS™ software, which is a user-friendly decision-support tool based on mathematical models used to evaluate the effects of different nutritional and environmental conditions on fish farm production, provides a potential tool to improve aquaculture efficiency.

Application and prize

To apply to this contest participants are invited to learn more about the use of SPAROS nutritional-based model FEEDNETICS™ to complement their research work, by reading the technical papers with some applications (<https://www.sparos.pt/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TechnicalArticlesFDN.pdf>) and by watching the academic webinar available at our Youtube channel (<https://youtu.be/zp3W007-YG8>).

1st stage

Submit a proposal about how you would like to apply FEEDNETICS™ at your research work, including:

- The objective. Consider the following examples as guidance, these do not represent an exhaustive list, other ideas are most welcome: support interpretation of research trial testing novel feeds, long-term evaluation of feed additives or ingredients, support the planning of a trial.
- A brief description of the dataset or protocol that you want to simulate.
- The industry/scientific relevance of your proposal, and if relevant, a brief description about the applicant's research work.

Besides these 3 points (maximum 3000 characters), your application must include the applicant's name, e-mail address, telephone, host institution and supervisor names. Please bear in mind that FEEDNETICS™ is currently available for the gilthead bream, the European bass, the rainbow trout and the Nile tilapia.

Send your application by e-mail to feednetics@sparos.pt, with the subject 'Prize 2021 aquaculture nutrition students'. The deadline for the 1st stage application is the 1st of May 2021. The applicants will be informed by e-mail about the contest results the latest by the 8th of May 2021, and the selected candidates will be announced at SPAROS website.

The 3 applications with the highest scores will be selected for applying to the 2nd stage, and the 3 applicants will earn free access to the FEEDNETICS™ web app, individual academic license, for a period of 6 months.

2nd stage

In the 2nd stage the 3 selected candidates are invited to implement their proposal using the FEEDNETICS™ and submit an extended abstract in the AE2021 format: <https://www.aquaeas.org/Abstract/Submit/AE2021>

The abstract should be sent by e-mail to feednetics@sparos.pt, with the subject “Prize 2021 aquaculture nutrition students”. The deadline for submitting the abstract is 15th June 2021.

The applicants will be informed by e-mail about the contest results the latest by the 30th of June 2021, and the winner will be announced at our news website.

The application with the highest score will earn the right to present orally its FEEDNETICS™ -based work at Aquaculture Europe 2021 (October 4-7, Funchal, Madeira Island), with a SPAROS grant entitling to a flight ticket (up to 800 Euros), Hotel stay at Madeira (5 nights) and conference registration fee. In case of the presentational event is cancelled due to covid related restrictions the award will be applicable to the next EAS presentational event (Aquaculture Europe 2022, Rimini).

Who can apply?

PhD and master students on aquaculture nutrition or related courses.

Evaluation criteria

The applications will be evaluated by SPAROS using the following criteria:

- Scientific and Technical Quality - Originality of proposed research, awareness of current state of the arts and clarity of objectives. (40%)
- Feasibility- Appropriate theoretical and methodological framework, possibility to carry on research within given timeframe. (30%)
- Added-value- Scope for industry application. (30%)

The applications will be scored (1 to 5, highest score) for each criterion and will be ranked based on the final score. Only the applications scoring 4 or above will be considered for the award.

Evaluation committee: Ana Nobre, Filipe Soares, Tomé Silva, Luis Conceição

For enquires about your application, please contact us using the same e-mail address: feednetics@sparos.pt.