FEEDNETICS PRIZE for aquaculture nutrition research students – 2022/2023

SPAROS is launching a prize for students and post-doc researchers that are conducting their research on aquaculture nutrition to foster the use of nutritional-based mathematical simulation in their work. We believe this will be part of the toolset of aquaculture nutrition experts to support the development of new aquafeed formulations, and the evaluation of long-term effects of novel ingredients on fish performance and environment, like it already happens in the land-based agro-industry. This initiative aims to contribute to this purpose, by grating to the winner free access to the FEEDNETICS™ web app, which is our user-friendly prediction tool based on mathematical models. FEEDNETICS™ can be used to evaluate *in silico* the effects of different nutritional and environmental conditions on fish farming production, contributing to improve aquaculture efficiency. If you want to learn more about FEEDNETICS™ read the technical papers with some applications (https://www.sparos.pt/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TechnicalArticlesFDN.pdf) and watch the recording of our academic webinar (https://youtu.be/zp3W0O7-YG8).

Prize In the 2022/2023 edition, SPAROS will award to the applicant with the highest score free access to the FEEDNETICS™ web app, to support her/his research work throughout the Master's, Doctoral or Post-doctoral period.

Who can apply Postdocs, PhD and MSc students on aquaculture nutrition or related courses, who are registered as such on the launch date of this call (7/09/2022).

Important dates Submit your proposal by the 13th of January of 2023. The results will be announced 2 weeks after the submission deadline.

Application To apply, send a proposal to feednetics@sparos.pt, with the subject "FEEDNETICS Prize 2022/2023", explaining how you intend to apply FEEDNETICS™ in your work and including the following:

- Applicant's name, e-mail address, telephone, host institution and supervisor names.
- The objective. Consider the following examples as guidance (these do not represent an exhaustive list, other ideas are most welcome): support interpretation of research trials on novel feeds, long-term evaluation of feed additives or ingredients.
- A brief description of the dataset and/or protocol that you want to simulate.
- The industry/scientific relevance of your proposal, and a brief description about your research work.
- If applicable share with us your ideas about the dissemination of the work you intend to do with FEEDNETICS™.

Applications that include the comparison of FEEDNETICS™ results with data (your own research trial or published data) are valorised compared with a "simulation only" application. Regarding target species, FEEDNETICS™ is currently available for gilthead bream, European bass, Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout and Nile tilapia.

Evaluation criteria Applications will be evaluated by SPAROS using the following criteria:

- Scientific and Technical Quality - Originality of proposed research, awareness of current state-of-the-art 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 (4 is the threshold to be considered for the award), by the evaluation committee: Filipe Soares, Ana Nobre, Tomé Silva, Luis Conceição.

For enquires about your application, please contact us: feednetics@sparos.pt.