
MHSRS 2026 AWARD WINNERS

2026 MHSRS Distinguished Service and Team Awards

Distinguished Service Award

COL(Ret) John R. Hess, M.D.
University of Washington School of Medicine
Seattle, WA

Outstanding Research Accomplishment Individual/Military

Logan Williams, Ph.D.
711th Human Performance Wing
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, OH

Outstanding Research Accomplishment/Individual/Academia

Daniel Palanker, Ph.D.
Department of Ophthalmology
Stanford University, CA

Outstanding Research Accomplishment/Individual/Academia

Shawn Flanagan, Ph.D.
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science
Chicago, IL

Outstanding Research Accomplishment Team/Military

USAMRIID Biosurveillance Team
DHA Research & Development
U.S. Army Medical Research & Development Command
Fort Detrick, MD

Keersten Ricks, Ph.D. & LTC Jeffrey Kugelman, USA
Team Leads

**Outstanding Research Accomplishment
Team/Military**

Translational & Clinical Research Department

Infectious Diseases Directorate
Naval Medical Research Command
Silver Spring, MD

Chad Porter, Ph.D.
Team Lead

**Outstanding Research Accomplishment
Team/Academia**

Tamayol, Kalajzic, & Kumbar Labs
University of Connecticut, Farmington, CT
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE

Brya Matthews, Ph.D.
Team Lead

**Outstanding Research Accomplishment
Team/Academia**

Cape-Colorado-Combat Research Team
University of Colorado Anschutz
Aurora, CO

Nee-Kofi Mould-Millman, M.D.
Team Lead

**Outstanding Research Accomplishment
Team/Academia**

Integrated Cold Environment Medical Effects & Devices Team
University of Cincinnati, En Route Care Research
Cincinnati, OH

James B. Lehman, BAAS
Team Lead

Outstanding Program Management Team

NGDS 2 - Man Portable Diagnostic System Program Management Team

Capability Program Executive for CBRN Defense

JPM CBRN Medical

Ft. Detrick, MD

Christopher Joyal, MFA
Team Lead

Outstanding Program Management Team

Canine Freeze Dried Plasma Development Team

DHA PAE Medical Products

Fort Detrick, MD

LTC Sheila Johnson, USA & Kendra Lawrence, Ph.D.
Team Leads

Warfighter Medical Research Communications

Mrs. Jenn Green

University of Colorado Anschutz

Aurora, CO

2026 MHSRS Young Investigator Competition Awards

First Place – Oral Competition

***Prolonged Zone I Partial REBOA Swine Model for Visceral Ischemia-
Reperfusion Injury Therapeutic Evaluation***

Kennedy Nye, M.D.

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD

Second Place – Oral Competition

***Persistent Sex-, Dose-, Dose-Rate, & Time-Dependent Plasma & Saliva EV
Mirna Cargo after Ionizing Radiation Injury, Supporting EVS as Biomarkers &
Mediators of ARS/DEARE***

Madelyn Bucci, M.S.

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Third Place – Oral Competition

Therapeutic Reprogramming of Complement C5-Driven Endotheliopathy to Promote Survival & Organ Protection after Hemorrhage

Ms. Isabella Eastridge

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio TX

YI Poster Award

Using Brain Oscillations to Model Cognitive Fatigue During Sleep Deprivation

David Negelspach, Ph.D.

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

YI Honorable Mention

Major Mario Scheurer, Bundeswehr Hospital Ulm, Ulm, Germany

Charles Coombs, BSc, MBBS, MRCS

Michelle Zemil McCrea, M.S.

Claire Tucker, DMM, Ph.D.

LT Bryson Hewins, USN

Teresa Russell, M.S.

Zachary Liechty, Ph.D.

Robin Sunsong, Ph.D.

Antonio Renaldo, PhD.

Shaddy Malik, M.D.

Gabriel Zuckerberg, M.D.

Chetan Pundkar, Ph.D.

2026 MHSRS Poster Awards

Best in Show

Mechanical Evaluation of Field-Improvised Exoskeletons for Extremity Fracture Stabilization in Prolonged Care

William Johnson

Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence, DHA, San Antonio, TX

2026 MHSRS Poster Awards

Poster Session 1

First Place

Prospective Identification of Stress Fracture Risk via Serum Proteomic Profiling upon Entry to Training at the US Military Academy

Emily Ricker

Uniformed Services University ARMORR, Bethesda, MD

Second Place

Characterization of Antimicrobial Resistance phenotypes in Surgical Site Infections at a Military Hospital in Cameroon

Rania Nada

NAMRU-EURAFCENT

Third Place

A Pathogen-Agnostic UV Irradiation Platform for Rapid Inactivation of Diverse Biological Threats

Scott Cohen

American Biomedical Group, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK

Honorable Mention

A Novel Suspension System for a Military-Issued Rucksack Designed to Limit Overuse Injuries

Matthew Grossman

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Knoxville, TN

Honorable Mention

Transfemoral Osseointegrated Prosthesis Limb-Load Symmetry Training: Feasibility of a Telehealth Biofeedback Intervention

Peter Thomsen-Freitas

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Denver, CO

Poster Session 2

First Place

Metabolic Redox Stabilization of Hemoglobin-Based Oxygen Carriers for Sustained Oxygen Delivery During Hemorrhagic Shock

Elizabeth McAslan

KaloCyte, Inc., Baltimore, MD

Second Place

Non-invasive Optical Detection of Intracranial Hypertension with Machine Learning

Hongting Zhao

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Third Place

The ROSS M1 Sterilization Impact on the Emergency Reuse of Disposable Dental Instruments and 3D Printing Materials

Tarea Burton
Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio
JBSA Ft Sam Houston, TX

Honorable Mention

A New Diagnostic for MWDs: Static Cytology Maximizes Readiness, Accelerates Treatment, and Trains Military Officers

Elise LaDouceur
Joint Pathology Center
Silver Spring, MD

Honorable Mention

Challenging Convention: A Secondary Analysis of Circulation-First Versus Airway-First Triage in Trauma Patients Receiving Blood

Aara Sheth
Rowan University
Cambridge, NJ

Poster Session 3

First Place

Genetic Adaptation in Cold-Water Diving Populations to Inform Cold Injury Risk and Enhance Warfighter Readiness

Melissa Ilardo
The University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

Second Place

Effectively Screening Bedtime Procrastination & Smartphone Use Among Active-Duty Service Members: A Quality Improvement Initiative

Tarjani Shukla
59th Medical Wing
JBSA San Antonio, TX

Third Place

***Sex-based Differential Predictors of Suicide Ideation and Attempts in
Psychiatric Aeromedical Evacuations from OEF and OIF***

Kimberly Gomes

The University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

Honorable Mention

Blast Dosimeter Response within Mini-Shocktubes

Jean-Philippe Dionne

Med-Eng Holdings, ULC
Ottawa, CN

Honorable Mention

An Evaluation of Non-Care Seeking for Tinnitus in the Military Health System

Andrew MacGregor

Naval Health Research Center
San Diego, CA