



2023 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD
WINNERS

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the winners of the *JoF* 2023 Young Investigator Award are Dr. Sebastian Wurster, Dr. Aleksandra Barac and Dr. Nitesh Kumar Khandelwal.

Sebastian Wurster, MD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas (USA). Dr. Wurster's research focuses on the immune pathogenesis and immunotherapy of invasive mycoses, the pathogenesis of inter-kingdom co-infections, immune biomarkers and immunoassays, and preclinical infection models.

Aleksandra Barac is an MD, PhD, Full Research Professor, Teaching Assistant Professor, Infectious Diseases Specialist, and Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy Subspecialist at the Clinic for Infectious and Tropical Diseases, University Clinical Centre of Serbia, Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Serbia. She is also a Full Professor at the University of Sassari in Sardinia, Italy. Aleksandra Barac has received over 20 international awards, including the 2019 UNESCO-L'Oréal "Women in Science" Award, the 2018 ISHAM Young Investigator Award for clinical mycology, the 2017 ESCMID TAE Award for training achievements, etc.

Nitesh Kumar Khandelwal is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California San Francisco, USA. Dr. Khandelwal received his Ph.D. in 2016 from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India. His research broadly focuses on understanding the drug resistance mechanism in fungal and bacterial pathogens using cell biology, genetics, biochemistry and structural biology tools.

As the awardees, Dr. Sebastian Wurster, Dr. Aleksandra Barac and Dr. Nitesh Kumar Khandelwal will each receive an honorarium of CHF 1000, an offer to publish a paper free of charge before the end of 2024 in *JoF* after peer-review and an electronic certificate.

We would like to thank all of the nominators from various fields of study for their participation and all of the Award Committee Members for their evaluation of the many excellent nominations.

JoF 2023 Young Investigator Evaluation Committee