

DERI, NUI Galway Team finalist in the Elsevier Grand Challenge on Knowledge Enhancement in the Life Sciences

Elsevier, a leading global healthcare and scientific publisher, has announced the four finalists chosen in the Elsevier Grand Challenge, a competition inviting researchers to prototype tools dealing with the ever-increasing amount of online life sciences information. The semi-finalist round was held on 15 December at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston and featured each of the nine Grand Challenge teams providing demonstrations to a distinguished panel of judges and fellow contestants. The applications used technologies ranging from semantic search engines, image query to social networking tools, and interactive visualizations.

The four finalists chosen by the panel of judges represent the tools thought to be most innovative and implementable:

- Vit Novacek, Tudor Groza, Ioana Hulpus, and Siegfried Handschuh, Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), NUI Galway, "CORAL - Dive into Publications, Bathe in the Knowledge"
- Seán I. O' Donoghue, Lars Jensen Heiki Horn, Evangelos Pafilis, Michael Kuhn, Nigel P. Brown, and Reinhard Schneider, Germany, for "Reflect: Automated Annotation of Scientific Terms"
- Amr Ahmed, Andrew Arnold, Luis Pedro Coelho, Joshua Kangas, Abdul-Saboor Sheik, Eric Xing, William Cohen and Robert F. Murphy, USA, "Structured Literature Image Finder"
- Stephen Wan, Cecile Paris, Robert Dale, Michael Muthukrishna, Ilya Anisimoff and Julien Blondeau, Australia, "Citation Sensitive In-Browser Summarisation of Cited Documents"

In the submitted work DERI presents a plan to integrate Knowledge Representation and Reasoning technologies in life science publications to better integrate, search and retrieve life sciences knowledge.

Dr. Siegfried Handschuh, SFI Stokes Lecturer at NUI Galway and research leader of the Semantic Collaboration team at DERI said "This is a very significant achievement for our team. The competition for this prize thus far has been very strong and we are very pleased to be ranked in the top four. We look forward to the final in April. We can leverage the knowledge in DERI to create innovative technologies that will change how life scientists work. Changing the way scientists exchange knowledge is on our agenda. This contest gives us another > opportunity to present our work to an international audience."

Prof Stefan Decker, Director of DERI said: "Life Sciences is an important application area for the technologies that DERI is creating. This is further proof that Irish research is visible and internationally competitive."

"I was delighted not only with the quality of the presentations, but also with the discussions that resulted both with the judges and the other teams," added Challenge Judge David Rosenthal, of Stanford University Libraries in Palo Alto.

"In hosting the Challenge, we have made contact with a very large, and heterogeneous group of researchers interested in improving the way science is published," commented Anita de Waard of Elsevier Labs, Researcher Disruptive Technologies and co-organizer of the Challenge. "There is a community of people out there interested in tackling these issues, and some of us have met through this event - in the next iterations of the challenge, we hope to build on and stay in touch with this community".

Elsevier Grand Challenge Finalists are invited to present their vision papers to the judges and the public in April 2009 at the Experimental Biology Conference in New Orleans. The Elsevier Grand Challenge webinar Q&A and Final Judging session will be held 21 April at 3:00pm CST. Their work will then be presented at a live webinar during which the winner will be chosen. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$35,000 and the runner up will be awarded a \$15,000 prize. Semi-finalists and finalists can also be offered the opportunity to commercially develop their tools, in collaboration with Elsevier.

About DERI

DERI is the largest applied research organisation developing the next generation of Internet technology - the Semantic Web. "Founded in 2003 with CSET (Centre for Science and Engineering Technology) funding from Science Foundation Ireland with Hewlett Packard Galway as its main industrial partner, it has since grown to over 120 people and has acquired significant additional research funding from sources such as the European Union Framework Programmes, Enterprise Ireland, and industrial partnerships. For more information about DERI see <http://www.deri.ie>
For more information about the Elsevier Grand Challenge see:
<http://www.elseviergrandchallenge.com/>

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