Invitation to Participate in the InstituteQ 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Pitching Competition

Dear Doctoral Students in the Field of Quantum in Finland,

InstituteQ will be hosting a 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) competition, on September 9, as part of Finnish Quantum Days. This competition is a fantastic opportunity for you to showcase your research, hone your presentation skills, and engage with a wider audience.

An 80,000 word PhD thesis would take 9 hours to present. Your time limit... 3 minutes.

What is 3MT?

The 3MT competition, developed by The University of Queensland, challenges doctoral students to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance in just three minutes, using only one static PowerPoint slide and no additional props or media. The goal is to cultivate your academic, presentation, and research communication skills and explain your research in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

Eligibility

All active doctoral students in **Finland** whose research is related to quantum science and engineering are eligible to participate in the InstituteQ 3MT competition (including candidates whose thesis is under submission by the date of their first presentation). Graduates are not eligible.

Why Participate?

- **Skill Development**: Enhance your ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively.
- **Visibility**: Increase awareness of your research and its impact to a broad audience.

How to Participate?

1. **Registration**: Sign up for the competition immediately by sending an email to mahdi.moghaddam@aalto.fi.
2. **Preliminary Screening**: Registered participants should submit a short video of their presentation (max 1.5 mins, without any slides) on a preferred accessible platform (file's name: FirstName_LastName_University_3MT) and share the link to the video with mahdi.moghaddam@aalto.fi by **August 26**. Please note that competitors will NOT be judged on video/ recording quality or editing capabilities but the ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience. At this stage finalists are selected for the final.

3. **Final Round**: If selected, you can apply any modification needed to your presentation. Further instructions will be shared with those selected. You will present your research at the final event on **September 9** in conjunction with the Finnish Quantum Days, in Lumituuli, Dipoli, Espoo. For finalists outside of capital area, travel expenses may be covered (accommodation is at own cost). Your 3MT presentation will be judged by a jury panel based on the following criteria:

    - Presentation provided clear motivation, background, and significance to the research question.
    - Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research; and
    - Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes, and impact of the research.
    - The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.
    - The PowerPoint slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation.
    - The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention.

    People's choice vote
    An important aspect of the competition is the People's Choice prize. Following all presentations, the audience is asked to vote on who they thought gave the most convincing 3MT presentation (based on their understanding of the criteria above). Voting to be facilitated via an online poll. A finalist can be the winner or runner-up and still receive the People's Choice award.

    Prizes:
    - **Winner**: €1000
    - **Runner-Up**: €500
    - **People's Choice**: €500

Final Event Details:

- **Date**: September 9
- **Time**: 14:50-16:00.
- **Venue**: Lumituuli, Dipoli, Otaniemi, Espoo.

We might also be offering a workshop session to help you prepare for the competition. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact mahdi.moghaddam@aalto.fi.

We look forward to your participation.

Best regards,

Mahdi, on behalf of the FQD program committee