

Biotechnology **YES 2008**

A team of bioscientists from the University of Reading were rewarded for their exceptional entrepreneurial skills as they were crowned 2008 winners of Biotechnology YES – a national competition run annually by BBSRC and the University of Nottingham Institute for Enterprise and Innovation (UNIEI). The team scooped top prize in the Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES) in December last year by impressing a panel of judges with their proposal for a hypothetical company called Ovega and its revolutionary new product, which aims to produce vegetarian Omega-3 oil from food industry waste.

The Reading team was one of 14 that made it through to the final, 73 teams competed in regional heats. The winners walked away with the Biotechnology YES 2008 title, £1000 prize money, sponsored places at the Bioindustry Association dinner and the opportunity to give their presentation at a premier regional US Business Plan Competition.

Dr Peter Ringrose, Chair of BBSRC and head of the final judging panel said: “We are delighted that these talented young scientists are preparing themselves to translate their research into benefits for the UK economy and society – an activity for which their grasp of the principles of finance, marketing and intellectual property will be absolutely vital. The UK’s bioscience sector is truly world class and we must continue to encourage young scientists to turn excellent science into significant impacts.”

The deadline for the 2009 competition is 31 May.
Further details can be found at www.biotechnologyYES.co.uk



The winning team: (left to right) Dr Nadia Abed, Joao Lopes, Cristina Fante, Dr Abby Thompson and Federico Dorate

Other winners included:

- Fybre, Newcastle University - Best consideration of IP strategy, sponsored by Potter Clarkson
- Aptamix, University of Leeds - Best healthcare business plan, sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline
- BioInspire, University of Leeds - Best medical technology, the Smith & Nephew Prize
- Follix, University of Manchester - Best plant science business plan, sponsored by Syngenta
- Allez, Newcastle University - The Pfizer Prize for Innovation