March 14, 2016

Attention Bachelors and Master students, PhD candidates, post-docs, junior faculty and young entrepreneurs,

The Falling Walls Foundation, based in Berlin, organizes the Falling Walls Conference that serves as an international forum for science and innovation to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall by hosting young entrepreneurs and inventors and giving them the opportunity to express their best ideas, ideas that will “break down the walls” and remove barriers to progress in science and society. The participants in this international conference are the winners of local competitions held around the world.

Last November, University of Rochester student Ryan Trombetta stood on a stage in Berlin, Germany, and pitched his research project to some of the world's top scientists and innovators at the internationally renowned Falling Walls conference. Ryan’s compelling description of using 3D printed bone grafts to treat osteomyelitis enabled him to finish a very respectable 12th among 100 competitors (see video here). Would you like to take the stage in Berlin this fall to tell the world about your research?

If you’re interested in participating in the same University preliminary contest that propelled Ryan to his opportunity to be in the spotlight, please register at falling-walls.com/lab/apply before April 15, 2016. The conference consists of a series of rapid-fire three minute presentations. Each presenter will have just three minutes and three slides — one slide with his or her name and presentation title followed by two content slides — to convey any number of major themes and ideas. The preliminary conference will take place in Sloan Auditorium on May 18, 2016. The 3-panel presentation must be emailed to fallingwallsrochester@rochester.edu no later than 12 midnight on Monday, May 9, 2016 in order to participate. To learn more about this event, please visit the official Falling Walls website at http://www.falling-walls.com/lab/faq1.

While only one individual will be awarded an expenses-paid trip to Berlin, other prizes will be awarded to the top finishers. We hope you will join us for what is sure to be an exciting afternoon.

Best regards,

Robert L. Clark                    Richard E. Waugh
Sr. Vice President for Research     Assoc. Vice President for Research