July 22, 2011

Re: 2011 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Biomedical and Health Informatics Dissertation Award

The Steering Committee of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) doctoral program in Medical Informatics is pleased to announce that Mr. Shashank Agarwal is the 2011 winner of the UWM Biomedical and Health Informatics Dissertation Award. Mr. Agarwal has been selected as the dissertator who best represents the goals that the program hopes to support, including excellence in scholarly and academic achievement. Mr. Agarwal's dissertation is entitled “Integrating Information Retrieval, Image Processing, Summarization, Natural Language Processing, and User Interfacing for Phenotype-Genotype Association”. His degree is expected in Spring 2012.

In his four years at UWM, Mr. Agarwal has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has published 15 peer reviewed papers, including journal articles in BMC Biomedical Informatics, Bioinformatics, IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioninformatics, the Journal of Biomedical Informatics the Journal of Biomedical Discovery and Collaboration and the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association. He is a member of the American Medical Informatics Association. His advisor is Dr. Hong Yu.

The UWM Biomedical and Health Informatics Dissertation Award honors a student who has passed his or her preliminary exam and is in the last 12 months of completing the medical informatics doctoral program at UWM. By offering this award, the program hopes to promote academic excellence and to encourage participation in scholarly and professional activities of the discipline. The award is given as a one semester financial award of $4000, along with public recognition of the accomplishment.

Evaluation of applications take the following criteria into account: Academic record at UWM; Peer-reviewed publications; Presentations at meetings of national and international professional societies; Membership in national or international professional societies. To be considered, a student must provide a letter describing their eligibility and qualifications and a copy of his/her transcript and letters of recommendation. One of the letters must be from the applicant's faculty advisor, confirming the student's eligibility. (Applicants may also provide additional supporting materials, such as a receipt confirming membership in a professional society.)