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HDSI Invests in Postgraduate Talent to Expand Education Resources

Two new initiatives will boost data science educational resources at Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute (HDSI), the data science hub at University of California San Diego.

The Institute is investing in its postgraduate talent by adding financial support for 12 new doctoral students and scholars. The new postgrad expertise will strengthen the academic discipline by adding doctoral-level expertise to the undergraduate major and minor degree programs and related masters' programs.

New educational resources are:

- 2 outstanding scholars awarded the first-ever Postdoctoral Fellowships
- 10 new Graduate Prize Fellowships awarded to incoming Ph.D. students to support their degree programs for four years

The initiatives will expand both the educational offerings to university students and multidisciplinary research expertise available to faculty and industry partners. All new Postdoctoral Fellows and Graduate Prize Fellowship recipients will be contributing to teaching the expanding undergraduate education program at UC San Diego.



Stéphanie Martin and Cong Peng to serve as HDSI's 1st Postdoctoral Fellows, as part of expanding postgraduate resources

HDSI officials is investing in expanding its teaching resources due to the rising demand of its data science major, a leading program nationwide. The degree program drew so many undergraduate students in its first full year, 2018-19, that the data science major was capped temporarily.

The inaugural awardees of the HDSI Postdoc Fellowships are:

Stéphanie Martin, a current postdoctoral fellow at University of Geneva in Switzerland, with experience in machine learning for decoding various higher-order cognitive functions. Martin's work includes developing novel cognitive neuroprosthetics, the devices that restore or aid nervous system functions lost to illness or injury, such as cochlear implants for hearing loss. Martin has written and been interviewed extensively in the media on neuroscience in such publications as Science, Scientific American and New Scientist. More on [Martin](#):

Cong Peng, who is currently completing his Ph.D. at London School of Economics specializing in economic geography. Peng's research focuses on urban economics, with emphasis on the relationships between transportation and traffic congestion on air pollution and e-commerce. Peng's data-science technology expertise and teaching experience includes GIS geographical information systems, quantitative analysis and spatial economic analysis. More on [Peng](#):

In its second initiative expanding educational resources, the Institute awarded Graduate Prize Fellowships to 10 incoming Ph.D. students to support their data-science related research for the next four years. This influx of data science expertise will help boost the research and teaching capabilities for HDSI. They will work directly with our data science students as teaching assistants, helping strengthen what has become one of the largest data-science education programs in the nation.

The Graduate Prize Fellowships provide substantial financial support to Fellows throughout their four-year award. The awardees are drawn from multiple academic disciplines, in keeping with the multidisciplinary mission of HDSI. Doctoral student appointments will be shared by HDSI and five departments: Bioinformatics and Systems Biology-biomedical informatics track; Computer Science & Engineering (CSE); Mathematics; Cognitive Science; and Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE).

Fellowship awardees are:

- Fatemeh Amrollahi—Bioinformatics
- Yae Jee Cho—ECE

- Ranak Roy Chowdhury—CSE
 - Matthew Feiglis—Cognitive Science
 - Zhankui He—CSE
 - Side Li—CSE
 - Tara Mirmira—CSE
 - Yanyi Wang—Math
 - Yuyao Wang—Math
 - Weiwei Wu—Math
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