Celebrating inclusivity in footwear science: Solve for someone new

The Nike Sport Research Lab presents

The 2023 Nike Award for Athletic Footwear Research

In conjunction with the 16th ISB Footwear Biomechanics Technical Group meeting in Japan, Nike will offer the Nike Award for Athletic Footwear Research for the 9th time. This prestigious award was created and persists to honor excellence in footwear biomechanics research.

This year’s competition celebrates inclusivity in footwear science. Identify a gap in our knowledge of footwear science (population, application, sport, etc.) and add to the breadth of our understanding of footwear. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Size, height, mass, body type differences, foot length, etc. in the response of footwear
- Age differences in the response to footwear
- Sex differences in the response to footwear

There are two paths to enter this competition.

01. If your current footwear research is independent (not supported by another sport product company) and fits the topic of inclusivity in footwear science, simply enter the competition when you upload an abstract to the 2023 Footwear Biomechanics Symposium Conference Portal.

02. If you would like to start a new study for this competition, submit a one-page proposal to Nike (footwearaward@nike.com) by March 31, 2022 for an opportunity to receive commercial footwear for research. Please include:

a. Rationale for proposed research, including hypothesis
b. Description of methods
c. Timeline for completing research
d. General footwear request - size, pairs, and type (running, basketball, soccer, etc.)

Evaluation and Awards

01. Abstracts will be evaluated by a panel of researchers from the Nike Sport Research Lab using the following criteria:

a. Novelty of research methods in footwear science applications
b. Identification of a gap in current knowledge (population, application, etc.)
c. Clear theoretical foundation of proposed mechanism/hypothesis
d. Overall quality of the research

02. The top five finalists will be announced along with the notification of acceptance to the conference. To be considered for the award, finalists must attend the Footwear Biomechanics Symposium and present their research during the Nike Award Session. Awards will be given to the top three research papers based on both the abstract and presentation (First prize: $5000 USD, Second prize: $3000 USD and Third prize: $2000 USD).

Past Grantees

2005  Tine Willems (Cleveland)
2007  Liane Azevedo (Taipei)
2009  Kristiaan D’Aout (Stellenbosch)
2011  Geng Luo (Tubingen)
2013  Isabel Moore ( Natal)
2015  Steffen Willwacher (Liverpool)
2017  Bodil Oudshoorn (Gold Coast)
2021  Sarah Hemler (Gothenburg)