

Zoha Syed, Winner of Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research

By Reiko Simmons, Director of Student Awards

The Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research is given to a graduate student at an accredited institution. The 2023 winner is Zoha Syed who is a graduate student in the Department of Chemistry and a PhD candidate at the Northwestern University. Zoha was nominated by Professor Omar Farha PhD.

As an undergraduate, Zoha was a recipient of multiple awards including; Zella Jencks Rowe Undergraduate Tuition Scholarship from Washington University, an Honorable Mention for American Chemical Society (ACS) and a recipient of Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship (SULI) from U.S. Department of Energy. After graduation from the University of Washington with a degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry, Zoha entered Northwestern as a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellow (2018). In addition, Zoha was a recipient of McBride Award for exceptional commitment to diversity service and engagement , and a 2022 recipient of Edmund W. Gelewitz Award for excellence in research by a senior graduate student from Northwestern University.

Zoha was jointly supervised by her nominator, Professor Omar Farha of Northwestern University and Dr. Massimiliano (Max) Delferro, Group Leader, Catalysis Science Program of Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). Her work involves integration of metal coordination complexes into nanomaterials such as metal-organic frameworks (MOFs). Her research contributed to the aims of the Inorganometallic Catalyst Design Center (ICDC) funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Zoha's resume lists 19 peer-reviewed publications with multiple first author works.

According to her nominators, Zoha has become her research group's "in-house expert on a variety of characterization and analysis methods", and she is one of the most gifted speaker/presenters in articulating her research to audiences at both local and national conferences.

In addition to her career as a successful research graduate student/scientist, Zoha has consistently incorporated active involvement in several organizations. They include; President of Women in Science and Engineering Research (WISER), Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU), and Catalysis Club of Chicago (CCC).

Zoha's career plan is to become a tenure-track faculty member at an institution.