We invite you to participate in the first Lilavati Competition in “Poetic Math and Science”. The theme of the first competition is the “Hofstadter Butterfly” – one of the most exotic and fascinating quantum fractals.

Scientists and mathematicians often strive for mathematical beauty with the same depth and eagerness as painters, sculptors and other artists. The Lilavati competition strives to interlace the abstract poetry of science and mathematics embedded in its great equations and intriguing concepts with the poetry of natural beauty and language, adding a new dimension to one of the highest forms of artistry created by humans.

Applicants for the Lilavati competition should submit poems, written in English, of any length. The poem should integrate the beauty of the Hofstadter Butterfly in a manner like “Lilavati” – a book of poetic mathematics written in Sanskrit by the Indian mathematician Bhaskara II (1114-1185 AD). It is not necessary to pose a math or science question in the poetry, as Lilavati did. The deadline for all entries is Nov 15, 2015. A total award of 1,000 dollars will be distributed among the top winners. The winning poems will also be published in the special edition of my upcoming book, “Butterfly in the Quantum World: Story of a most fascinating Quantum Fractal ”.

The Lilavati Competition in Poetic Math and Science is established as a tribute to my late father, Indradev, who loved poetry. The year 2016 marks his 90th birthday. This competition is also a celebration of Bhaskara’s 900th birthday, as well as the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the Hofstadter butterfly by Douglas Hofstadter in a quantum System of two-dimensional electrons in a magnetic Field.

For more information and to submit your entry, please email isatija@gmu.edu.

Indu Satija
Department of Physics, George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia 22030, USA.