



Robert Cubeta Receives IDA Award for Research Excellence

ALEXANDRIA, VA (November 2020)—Robert Cubeta was awarded the inaugural David S. C. Chu Award for Research Excellence, named in honor of the former IDA president. Cubeta is a research associate in the Strategy, Forces and Resources Division of IDA's System and Analyses Center and has been with the company since 2013.

"The award reflects Robert's significant contributions to the analysis and understanding of contagious disease transmission in military populations and the development of contagious disease transmission models," said IDA President Norton A. Schwartz.

The David S. C. Chu Award for Research Excellence is presented annually to a research associate who has made one or more outstanding analytic contributions in support of IDA's mission.

As the COVID-19 virus emerged in Wuhan, China in January, Cubeta quickly adapted the contagious disease modeling tools he had previously developed to model this new and rapidly spreading virus. He was a key member of the IDA modeling and simulation team participating in the Department of Defense-wide COVID Task Force. Cubeta provided critical assistance to the efforts of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, and the Surgeon General of the Army to understand and control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Through his work during this national emergency, Cubeta exemplified the attributes that IDA values most in its researchers: rigorous analytic capabilities and trusted expertise that enabled him to deliver high-quality, impactful results rapidly for IDA sponsors.

Cubeta holds a bachelor's degree in physics from Bates College. He is currently completing his studies at Georgetown University for a master's degree in mathematics.

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