



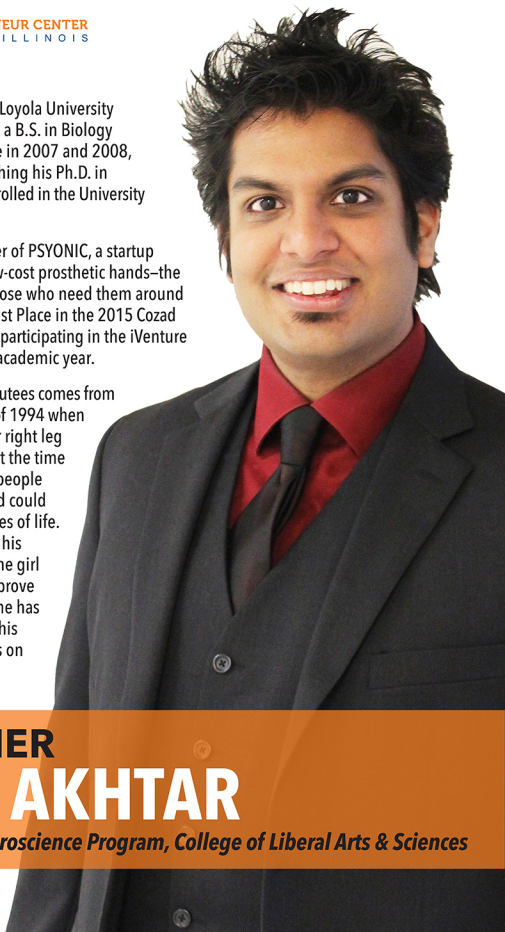
# ILLINOIS INNOVATION PRIZE

**I** TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEUR CENTER  
ENGINEERING AT ILLINOIS

**Aadeel Akhtar** graduated from Loyola University Chicago, magna cum laude, with a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Computer Science in 2007 and 2008, respectively. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. in Neuroscience at Illinois and is enrolled in the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Aadeel is the CEO and Co-founder of PSYONIC, a startup developing highly advanced, low-cost prosthetic hands—the first with sensory feedback—to those who need them around the world. PSYONIC took home 1st Place in the 2015 Cozad New Venture Competition before participating in the iVenture Accelerator during the 2015-16 academic year.

Aadeel's passion for helping amputees comes from a trip to Pakistan in the summer of 1994 when he met a girl his age missing her right leg using a tree branch as a crutch. At the time he did not understand how two people with the same ethnic background could have such vastly different qualities of life. Time passed and Aadeel made it his mission to help amputees, like the girl he met in Pakistan as a child, improve their quality of life. Since 2014, he has traveled to Ecuador twice to test his latest prosthetic hand prototypes on patients.



**2016 WINNER**

**AADEEL AKHTAR**

*MD/PhD Candidate, Neuroscience Program, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*