

# 'Beat that wall!' DLMP lab supervisor Andrew Yori to compete in new season of American Ninja Warrior

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On Monday June 5, the action-packed season 15 premiere of American Ninja Warrior (ANW) will air on NBC and feature a familiar face to some viewers and DLMP employees as DLMP Clinical Genome Sequencing Lab Supervisor Andrew "Roo" Yori ([https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.per\\_id=13840053&search\\_criteria\\_display=%27yori%27+](https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.per_id=13840053&search_criteria_display=%27yori%27+)) will once again be competing in this year's ANW competition.

For Yori, Monday's ANW premiere will mark both a beginning and an end, as this year's season will also be his last. Since 2016, Yori has appeared on every season of ANW to not only compete, but to also raise awareness and funds for his non-profit organization, the Wallace the Pitbull Foundation (<https://www.wallacethepitbull.org/>), which helps to support the lives of rescue dogs and the people who care for them.



Andrew Yori

"It's just been a great experience and I've gotten a lot of support from the people here at Mayo. Every now and then, I'll be in an elevator, and someone will say, 'Hey you're the ninja warrior guy!'" Yori says. "I just want to thank everybody for the support I've received and most importantly, the support for the dogs who need it."

This season, fans will witness a few changes to the ANW competition format. For the first time ever, contestants will now compete side-by-side during the semi-finals to advance to the National Finals in Las Vegas. The winning grand prize of \$1 million will go to the contestant who completes all four stages during the National Finals. New obstacles this season include: the "Pole Vault," "Greased Lighting," "The Getaway," "Ring The Bells," "Lasso Launch," "Kite Surfer," and "Cubes." In addition, the show's legendary Mega Wall now stands at a whopping 18½ feet, the tallest it's been since the show first began in 2009.

During the months leading up to the filming of this year's season, which began in March, Yori trained on a ninja rig he built in his backyard that includes salmon ladders and various other obstacles. He also invited his colleague and clinical director of Bioinformatics for DLMP, Shawn McClelland, Ph.D. ([https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.htm?per\\_id=21389951&displaymode=](https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.htm?per_id=21389951&displaymode=)), and his kids to train with him.

Since beginning his ANW journey in 2016, Yori has also inspired other Mayo Clinic employees to compete in the series, including Mayo Clinic pediatric urology surgeon Candace Granberg, M.D. ([https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.htm?per\\_id=14431891&displaymode=&search\\_criteria\\_display=%27GRANBERG%27+](https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.htm?per_id=14431891&displaymode=&search_criteria_display=%27GRANBERG%27+)), and medical student Tatsumi Yanaba ([https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.htm?per\\_id=30018771&search\\_criteria\\_display=%27Yanaba%27+](https://quarterly.mayo.edu/directory/person/person.htm?per_id=30018771&search_criteria_display=%27Yanaba%27+)).

Although he plans to retire for now, Yori hasn't ruled out returning to the show for old time's sake. "If it's still going after I turn 50 in a few years, I might circle back and have some fun with the youngsters again, but for now it's time to take a break," he says.

You can help cheer Yori on during the premiere episode of season 15 of American Ninja Warrior at 7 p.m. CT on Monday, June 5 on NBC. Viewers can also donate to the Wallace the Pit Bull Foundation (<https://pledgeit.org/ninjafordogs2023>) to help support those struggling to care for

their dogs.



Yori on the set of American Ninja Warrior