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Cezar Lupu* (ce147@pitt.edu), 2330 Eldridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. *How to discover and train talented undergraduate students for the Putnam competition.* Preliminary report.

In this talk, I shall discuss my experience as a coach for the Putnam competition at the University of Pittsburgh over the past 4 years. The Putnam competition is the premier competition North America which takes place in the first Saturday of December and reunites the best undergraduate students from top universities. I shall describe my interaction with the very talented students at the University of Pittsburgh through the Putnam seminar. The seminar was organized and maintained together with George Sparling and with the help of some other faculty and graduate students. Last but not least, I shall talk about Pitt's best performance in recent years. (Received August 18, 2017)