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SCIENCE SUPERSTARS FROM KANSAS AND MICHIGAN HONORED FOR RESEARCH ON HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS AND BRAIN TUMORS IN NATION'S PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE COMPETITION

Siemens Competition Regional Winners Announced at Notre Dame; Will Compete for \$100,000 at National Finals

Nandini Sarma of Overland Park, Kansas, Wins Top Individual Prize;
Christopher Ding of Rochester Hills, Michigan, and
James Jiang of Troy, Michigan, Win Top Team Prize

SOUTH BEND, IN, November 17, 2007 — Research on Herpes Simplex Virus and brain tumors won top honors tonight for Nandini Sarma and the team of Christopher Ding and James Jiang in the Region 3 Finals of the 2007-08 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, the nation's premier high school science competition.

The Siemens Competition, a signature program of the Siemens Foundation, is administered by the College Board. Tonight's winners will receive thousands of dollars in college scholarships and be invited to compete at the National Finals in New York City, where the winners of six regional competitions across the United States will vie for scholarships ranging from \$10,000 to the top prize of \$100,000.

"These students have earned a place of honor among the nation's best and brightest," said James Whaley, President of the Siemens Foundation. "We applaud their achievement and look forward to welcoming them to the national event."

The students presented their research this weekend to a panel of judges from the University of Notre Dame, host of the Region 3 Finals.

Individual Winner

Ms. Nandini Sarma, a senior at Shawnee Mission East High School in Prairie Village, Kansas, won the individual category and a \$3,000 college scholarship for her research on the Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), a highly infectious pathogen affecting a significant percentage of

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the human population. Her project is entitled *Cellular translation factors are required for the Virion Host Shutoff (Vhs) function of Herpes Simplex Virus: Use of siRNA-induced depletion of cellular factors to test involvement in Vhs activity*.

“The Herpes Simplex Virus produces a protein that ultimately causes destruction of the host cell,” said Dr. Crislyn D’Souza-Schorey, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame, a competition judge. “Ms. Sarma’s work enhances our understanding of how this protein does that, providing novel insight into the mechanism by which Herpes Virus elicits disease. Her work could provide strategy for therapeutic intervention.”

Ms. Sarma, her class valedictorian and a tennis varsity letter winner, is a three-time Intel International Science and Engineering Fair first place Grand Award winner (microbiology, 2005-2007). She has presented research at the London International Science Youth Forum and the Portugal Youth Science Forum. Fluent in Spanish, Ms. Sarma is a proficient pianist and earned fourth place at the International Baldwin Piano Competition. She would like to study molecular biology, biochemistry or neuroscience.

Ms. Sarma’s mentors on the project were Steve Appier, teacher, Shawnee Mission East High School, and Dr. G. Sullivan Read, Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Biophysics, University of Missouri. She and her mentor plan to publish this work.

Team Winner

Christopher Ding, a senior at Adams High School in Rochester Hills, Michigan, and James Jiang, a freshman at Troy High School in Troy, Michigan, won the team category and will share a \$6,000 scholarship for their research on brain tumors, entitled *Inhibition of VEGF decreases photodynamic therapy-induced angiogenesis, and reduces tumor regrowth of nude mice bearing U87 human glioma*.

“This team evaluated the effectiveness of a photodynamic therapy in treating brain tumors using a mouse model system,” said Dr. Alan Johnson, Professor, Biological Science, University of Notre Dame. “They found that this treatment actually results in greater tumor growth. Their experiments showed that by blocking a protein that promotes growth of new blood vessels that allow tumors to grow, they could reduce tumor size. Their results suggest the possibility of a more effective, potentially non-invasive treatment for brain tumors.”

Mr. Ding is a member of National Honor Society, German Club, and Science Olympiad. He plays the piano and clarinet and has performed with The Metropolitan Youth Symphony. He became interested in different cancer therapies after volunteering at the Neurology Department at

Henry Ford Health Systems. Fluent in Chinese, he hopes to study international relations, environmental science or pre-law. His dream job is to become a diplomat.

Mr. Jiang, a freshman, is a member of Club Med, Chinese Club and Biology Competition. He is also a pianist, having attained a superior rating in solo piano at a 2007 National Federation Festivals event. He enjoys track, basketball, running and reading, and aspires to become a surgeon. Kobe Bryant is his personal hero.

The team's mentors on the project were Dr. Michael Chopp, Vice Chairman, Dr. Xuepeng Zhang, Research Instructor, Dr. Xuguang Zheng, Research Fellow, and Mark Katakowski, Research Fellow, Department of Neurology, Henry Ford Health Science Center.

Regional Finalists

Regional finalists each received a \$1,000 scholarship. In addition, the Siemens Foundation awards \$2,000 per project to the high school of every regional finalist.

Regional Finalists in the individual category were:

- Shravani Mikkilineni, Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills, MI
- Alison Oreh, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights, OH
- Maya Ratnam, Sylvania Southview High School, Sylvania, OH

Team Regional Finalists were:

- Alexander Chernyakhovsky and Tong Zhan, William Mason High School, Mason, OH
- Gunnar Littrup, Lahser High School, Bloomfield Hills, MI and Mikhail George, Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills, MI
- Rachna Reddy and Elizabeth Busdicker, Port Huron Northern High School, Port Huron, MI
- Brian Wieliczka and Timothy Nendick, Rockhurst High School, Kansas City, MO

The Siemens Competition

The Siemens Competition was launched in 1998 to recognize America's best and brightest math and science students. This year, 1,641 students registered to enter the competition with a record number of projects submitted, including a 9% increase in team projects.

Entries are judged at the regional level by esteemed scientists at six leading research universities which host the regional competitions: California Institute of Technology; Carnegie Mellon University; Georgia Institute of Technology; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; University of Notre Dame; and The University of Texas at Austin.

The National Finals, judged by a panel of nationally renowned scientists and mathematicians, will take place November 30 – December 3 at New York University in New York City.

Log on to www.siemens-foundation.org to watch the national finalists during a webcast from the Siemens Competition National Finals in New York. Webcast schedule: Student presentations are available beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 12:00pm EST. Live webcast of the national winners press conference on Monday, December 3, from 8:30am EST.

The Siemens Foundation

The Siemens Foundation, established in 1998, is a national leader in math and science education, providing more than \$2 million in scholarships and awards annually. Based in Iselin, New Jersey, the Foundation's signature programs – the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement, and the Siemens Teacher Scholarships – recognize exceptional achievement in science, math and technology. By supporting outstanding students today, and recognizing the teachers and schools that inspire their excellence, the Foundation helps nurture tomorrow's scientists and engineers. The Foundation's mission is based on the culture of innovation, research and educational support that is the hallmark of Siemens' U.S. operating companies and its parent company, Siemens AG. For more information, please visit www.siemens-foundation.org.

The College Board

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns. For further information, visit www.collegeboard.com.

NOTE TO EDITORS: B-roll and photos of winners available on request.

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