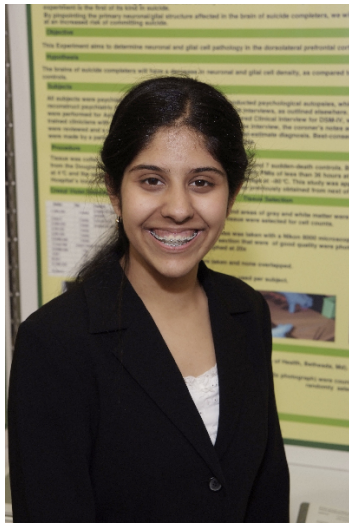


# CWSF 2007 - Truro, Nova Scotia



## Vandana Rawal

### The suicidal brain

- Division:** Life Sciences / None  
**Category:** Intermediate  
**Region:** CDLS - Province du Québec  
**City:** Brossard, QC  
**School:** École secondaire régionale Centennial  
**Abstract:** My experiment examines postmortem brain tissue of suicide victims and looks for abnormalities in cell density. The areas examined are the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and the orbitofrontal cortex which control impulsivity and are implicated in suicide. Changes in cytoarchitecture in these areas could implicate the etiology diagnosis and treatment of suicide.

### Biography

My name is Vandana Rawal, and I live in Brossard, Quebec. I am fifteen years old and currently attend Centennial Regional High School, where I am a Grade 9 student. I have been involved in several Science Fairs, and have won prizes at the regional and provincial levels. However, science is only one of many interests. I also like to play badminton and volleyball, and I am on the school badminton team. Apart from science, I am involved in public speaking, as well as theatre, and have won prizes in both areas. I am also a student in the senior levels of flute, choir, music theory and ear training. I enjoy writing, and have won prizes in the Commonwealth Essay Competition at the Provincial level; I placed second in Quebec in my category, and received recognition at the International level. I have also been selected to attend a leadership retreat for high school students. One of my dreams for the future is to work for 'Doctors without Borders,' and be a Science Journalist.

### Awards

### Value

The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Gold Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$2 000
Gold Medal - Health Sciences - Intermediate Sponsor: Canadian Institutes of Health Research	\$1 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3 500</b>