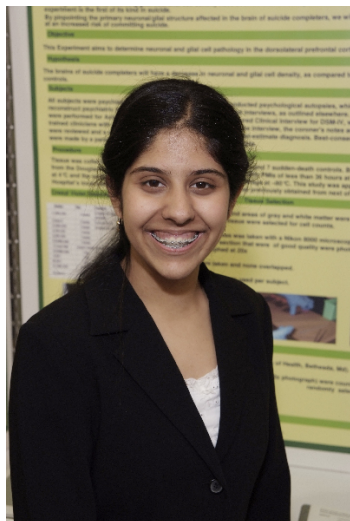


CWSF 2007 - Truro, Nova Scotia



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