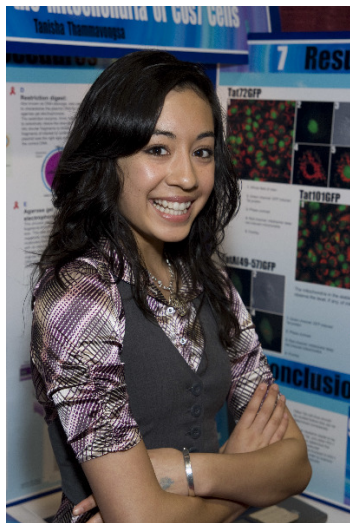


CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



Tanisha Thammavongsa

Interaction of HIV-1 Transactivating Factor Tat and Mitochondria of Cos7 Cells

Division: Biotechnology / None

Category: Intermediate

Region: London District

City: Thorndale, ON

School: A.B. Lucas S.S.

Abstract: Research on the interaction of transactivating factor TAT and the mitochondria of Cos7 cells will add to the knowledge base that could lead to more effective treatments and/or a vaccination protocol for HIV-1 infection. Determining the level of interaction between TAT and mitochondria will help determine the role of the TAT protein which may be related to mitochondrial dysfunction in the host cell.

Biography

Tanisha Thammavongsa is a 14 year old, grade ten student at A.B. Lucas Secondary School in London, Ontario. In addition to editing a board-wide art and literary magazine, Tanisha participates in many school clubs and activities including choir, band, drama, dance, charities, science fairs and math contests. Tanisha plays piano, flute, guitar and fiddle (plus teaching herself saxophone). Nearly fluent in French thanks to a grade nine immersion experience, she is also learning Spanish and Lao (a Thai dialect). Outside school, Tanisha studies dance at an advanced level, taking master classes with international choreographers. Next Christmas break, she will be studying dance in NYC on scholarship. Tanisha also acts for stage and screen including musical theatre. As an avid sports enthusiast, her active lifestyle includes running, soccer, riding, swimming and learning to ski, snowboard, surf and play tennis. Passionate about travel, her goal is to visit all seven continents before turning 21. She will spend July on Crete, earning her grade 12 English credit, learning to sail and wind surf, and participating in drama and music enrichment. Tanisha's ambition is to earn a medical degree and work in the field of international development with organizations such as the WHO and MSF.