

CWSF 2012 - Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



Diana Bark, Neesha Persad

Pounding Cancer with PTEN

Challenge: Health
Category: Senior
Region: Edmonton
City: Edmonton, AB, Edmonton , AB
School: Old Scona School, Lillian Osborne High School
Abstract: Increased levels of the oncoprotein, beta-catenin, promotes tumor cell metastasis. In melanoma, PTEN, a tumour suppressor and negative regulator of the PI3K pathway, is inactive or lost. We have determined that the re-introduction of PTEN to metastatic melanoma cells decreased active beta-catenin levels, and reduced the migratory and invasive potential of these cells. This investigation elucidated the putative mechanisms underlying metastatic melanoma.

Biographies

Diana - I am from Korea and I attend Old Scona Academic High School. My two loves are biology and French. I first was introduced to the world of research through the Heritage Youth Researcher Summer program, and have also participated in the Gene Researcher for a Week program. I plan on continuing my research endeavours throughout my academic career, and would like to pursue an MD/PhD.

Neesha - Hi, my name is Neesha! I am currently in grade 11, attending Lillian Osborne High School where i am enrolled in the IB program. I am a person who enjoys playing the piano and I have a passion for swimming. I am a member of my school's swim team and have been in competitive swimming for the past 4 years. Last summer, I did research within the Persad laboratory, performing very fascinating experiments, and this is where i got my inspiration to do this project. I really hope to continue doing summer research, as it is an excellent way to spend your summer, looking at research topics that interest you! It is truly engaging experience that I hope ...

Awards

Value

The Manning Innovation Achievement Award Sponsor: Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation	\$500
Excellence Award - Senior - Gold Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	\$1 500
Dalhousie University Faculty of Science Entrance Scholarship Senior Gold Medallist - \$5000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Dalhousie University, Faculty of Science	\$5 000
UBC Science (Vancouver) Entrance Award Senior Gold Medallist - \$4000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: The University of British Columbia (Vancouver)	\$4 000
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University of Ottawa Entrance Scholarship Senior Gold Medallist - \$4,000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Ottawa	\$4 000
Western University Scholarship Gold Medallist - \$4000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$4 000
Total	\$24 000