

CWSF 2013 - Lethbridge, Alberta



Harishitaa Prithiviraj

Divided We Fade, United We Cure!!!

Challenge: Health

Category: Junior

Region: Chignecto West

City: Truro, NS

School: Bible Hill Junior High School

Abstract: Antibiotic resistance in pathogenic bacteria is a worldwide issue. My goal was to test if natural compounds have synergistic effect with antibiotics. Such synergism will enhance the activity of antibiotics and negate the development of antibiotic resistance. Using *Caenorhabditis elegans* - *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* host-pathogen model system I found that curcumin, a chemical constituent of turmeric, significantly potentiated the activity of antibiotics.

Biography

My name is Harishitaa Prithiviraj. I'm 14 years old and go to Bible Hill Junior High, Truro, Nova Scotia. I am a grade eight student in the integrated French program. I play piano, soccer, badminton, and guitar and like singing and dancing. I participated in the French speaking competition and was awarded Bronze. I competed in the 2013 NSSAF badminton tournament and made it to provincial finals. I also participated in a number of music festivals since grade five. Also, I have competed in science fair since grade 4. In the 2012 Canada Wide Science Fair I won gold. When I grow up, I would like to become a pediatrician and a researcher. This is what inspired me for my project. My aim for this project was to see if natural compounds have a synergistic effect with antibiotics that will increase the activity of antibiotics. Such combinations might reduce the development of antibiotic resistance in bacteria. For students who want to do a science project, do something you are interested and something from which you can learn.

Awards

Value

Challenge Award - Health - Junior Sponsor: Canadian Institutes of Health Research	\$500
Excellence Award - Junior - Gold Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	\$700
Western University Scholarship Gold Medallist - \$4000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$4 000
Platinum Award - Best Junior Project Sponsor: BlackBerry	\$5 000
Total	\$10 200