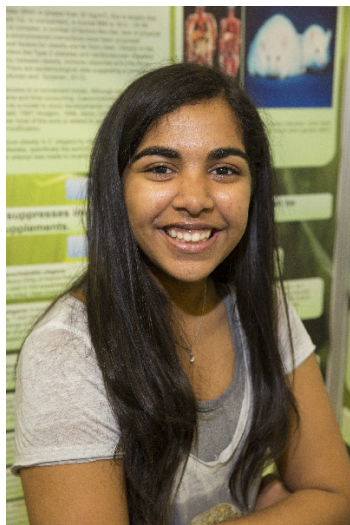


CWSF 2014 - Windsor, Ontario



Harishitaa Prithiviraj

Is Bigger the Better?

Challenge: Health

Category: Intermediate

Region: Chignecto West

City: Truro, NS

School: Bible Hill Junior High School

Abstract: Obesity has become a major public health concern worldwide affecting an estimated 400 million people. The relationship between obesity, immune response and infectious diseases are not well studied. The goal of this project was to induce obesity in *Caenorhabditis elegans* by dietary modification and then to study the effect of obesity on infectious disease. Furthermore, an attempt was made to revert obesity with dietary supplements.

Biography

My name is Harishitaa Prithiviraj. I'm 15 years old and go to Bible Hill Junior High, Truro, Nova Scotia. I am a grade nine student in the integrated French program. I play piano, soccer, badminton, and guitar and like singing and dancing. I have competed in science fair since grade 4. In the 2012 Canada Wide Science Fair I won gold and in 2013 I received the Platinum award in Junior category. I was the recipient of 2013 Nova Scotia Youth Award for Science and Technology. When I grow up, I would like to become a pediatrician and a researcher. I am presenting my research on obesity in this year's CWSF. Obesity has become one of the major public health concern worldwide. World Health Organization is estimating that there will about 700 million people affected by 2015. The aim of the project was to induce obesity in *Caenorhabditis elegans* model by dietary modification and to study the effect of obesity on immunity. Further, I explored the possibility of reverting obesity with natural product supplements. For students who want to do a science project, do something you are interested and something from which you can learn.

Awards

Value

Excellence Award - Intermediate - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Nuclear Waste Management Organization	\$100
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$1 100