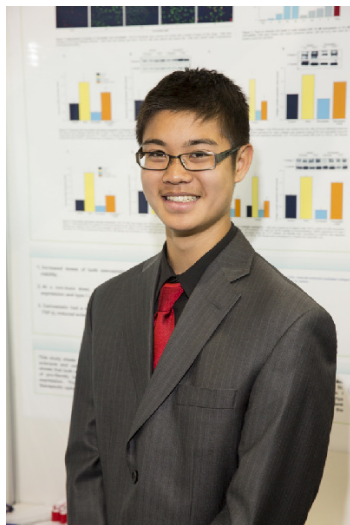


CWSF 2015 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



Justin Lin

Effects of Statins on Scleraxis-Mediated Collagen Expression in Fibroblasts

Challenge: Health

Category: Intermediate

Region: Manitoba Schools Science Symposium

City: Winnipeg, MB

School: St. John's Ravenscourt School

Abstract: Cardiac fibrosis affects many people worldwide yet lacks effective therapies. Here we investigate whether two statins, which have been reported to have anti-fibrotic effects, can be used to lower collagen production in the heart. Our results show that statins are able to reduce both collagen and scleraxis gene expression, suggesting that statins may be used to develop a therapeutic strategy targeting cardiac fibrosis.

Biography

My name is Justin Lin and I am in Grade 10 at SJR school in Winnipeg, Manitoba. My hobbies include playing piano, chess and debating. I also enjoy playing sports such as soccer, basketball and ultimate frisbee. I hope to go into a medical field when I grow up. This will be my first time at CWSF! I got inspiration for my project based on some research from other labs which have identified a few of the pleiotropic effects of statins. My plans for further investigations include confirming that the effects of the statins are mediated through our laboratory's main protein of interest: the transcription factor scleraxis. My advice to other students thinking about doing a science fair project is to find a subject that they are passionate about and to never give up. Working in a lab for the first time opened my eyes to what science and research is really like. I've realized that research is no easy job and scientific discoveries don't just pop out of thin air.

Awards

Value

Excellence Award - Intermediate - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$1 000