CWSF 2016 - Montreal, Quebec
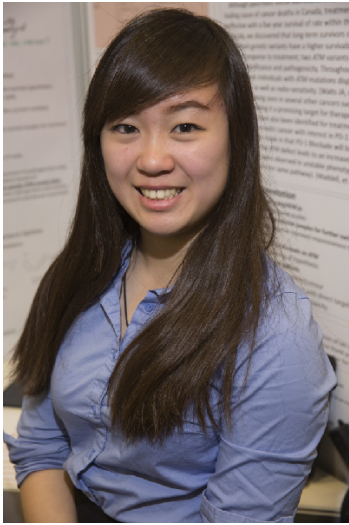
Vanessa Chan

Germline ATM Variants Identified in Long-Term Survivors of Pancreatic Cancer

Challenge: Health
Category: Senior
Region: Greater Vancouver
City: Richmond, BC
School: J N Burnett Secondary

Abstract: Pancreatic cancer is a lethal disease with a survival rate over 3 years of under 6%. Normal and tumor tissue from long-term survivors of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma were formalin fixed paraffin embedded and subjected to next-generation sequencing for 19 hereditary cancer genes. Putative variants occurring in both tumor and normal samples were technically and clinically validated using the latest variant calling guidelines to determine pathogenicity.

Biography

Vanessa Chan is a Grade 11 student in Richmond BC. Being a well-rounded individual, she has a multitude of interests, dedicating time to arts, athletics and sciences. Her first love was a piano, an infatuation with composition resulted in top placements in various musical competitions; curiosity eventually led her to the alto saxophone and ukulele. Aside from music, Vanessa is an avid photographer with a passion for capturing the fleeting 1/1000 of a second of a perfect snapshot. As a competitive athlete, Vanessa has swum and played both basketball and volleyball though her dedication to swimming specifically has landed her current job as a lifeguard at her local pools. Passionate about global issues Vanessa is an enthusiastic participant of many Model UN conferences; she recently furthered her adventures by partnering with LiveDifferent and flying out to Mexico where she interacted with locals and built a house with a family in need. After discovering the lethality of pancreatic cancer Vanessa was determined to study the cancer's genetic predisposition leading her to her current project; she hopes to one day find effective treatment. For those that are thinking of doing a project she recommends they follow whatever path they're passionate about.