

# CWSF 2017 - Regina, Saskatchewan



## Aunum Abid

### Vitrification and Maturation of Mammalian Oocytes

**Challenge:** Discovery

**Category:** Junior

**Region:** Saskatoon

**City:** Saskatoon, SK

**School:** Montgomery

**Abstract:** Cryopreservation (slow freezing) is a process to conserve undeveloped oocytes (female eggs) for future use. However, this causes ice crystal formation damaging cell tissue. Vitrification (ultra-rapid freezing) is an alternate method, when used with antioxidants decreases cell damage allowing for in-vitro maturation to occur. Experimental results showed vitrification positively affected the oocytes at their gene level and the addition of antioxidant SS31 had beneficial effects.

### Biography

My name is Aunum Abid and I am part of the grade 8 ScienceTrek program at Montgomery School in Saskatoon, SK. I enjoy learning about many topics in the field of science especially in a hands-on environment where I can learn by experience. Some of my hobbies include competitive swimming, playing piano, traveling around the world, and spending afternoons reading at the library. I have had the opportunity to participate in several science camps as well as a few conventions specifically in the health sciences. That's where I discovered my project topic for this year's science fair, which is my first CWSF competition. I have learned a great deal from my investigation and plan to carry out further studies in animal and human health sciences. If I was to offer some advice to other students, probably the one thing I would say is, to always keep an open mind, because sometimes the most significant learning or outcomes don't necessarily come from the anticipated or obvious sources.