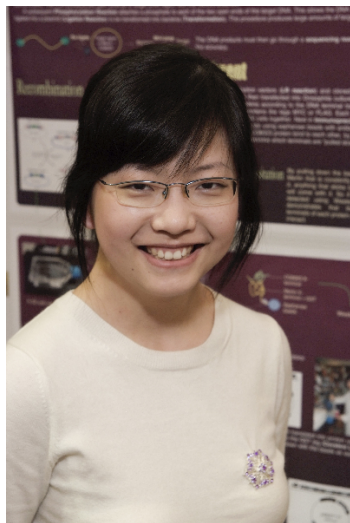


## CWSF 2007 - Truro, Nova Scotia



### Chongya Niu

#### Testing a Novel Activity of the Merlin Tumour Suppressor

**Division:** Biotechnology / None

**Category:** Senior

**Region:** Edmonton

**City:** Edmonton, AB

**School:** Strathcona School

**Abstract:** This project mapped the specific regions of interaction between Merlin, a tumour suppressor protein, and CG8023, a newly identified protein. Various experimental methods were used, such as co-immunoprecipitation. CG8023 proteins were found to bind only to the carboxy-terminal of the Merlin protein. This provides further understanding to how the Merlin tumour suppressor works and may provide unique avenues to developing RNA-based therapies for Neurofibromatosis 2.

#### Biography

My name is Chongya Niu. I am originally from mainland China, and I moved to Edmonton, Alberta in Grade 9. I am currently in Grade 12 at Strathcona High School. I have a great passion for science, which led me to take part in a variety of science-related activities. This year, I took part in the APEGGA Science Olympics, in which my team achieved overall second place. I also received first place in the senior life sciences division at the Edmonton Regional Science Fair. One of my proudest moments with science was to participate in the Heritage Youth Researcher Summer Program at the University of Alberta. Because of it, I developed a keen interest in scientific research, and hence my participation in the Sanofi-Aventis Biotech Challenge, in which I received regional third place this year. In addition, I enjoy volunteering, painting, playing badminton and spending time with friends. I am a member of my school's Grad Committee, the Speech and Debate Club, and I volunteer at the University of Alberta Hospital and the Canadian Blood Services. I plan to go the University of Alberta in the coming fall to study in the Honors Program in Cell Biology.

#### Awards

#### Value

Dalhousie University Faculty of Science Entrance Scholarship Senior Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Dalhousie University, Faculty of Science	\$2 000
UBC Science (Vancouver) Entrance Award Senior Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: The University of British Columbia (Vancouver)	\$2 000
The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Silver Medallist - \$1500 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$1 500
Silver Medal - Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Sciences - Senior Sponsor: Rx&D Health Research Foundation	\$700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6 200</b>