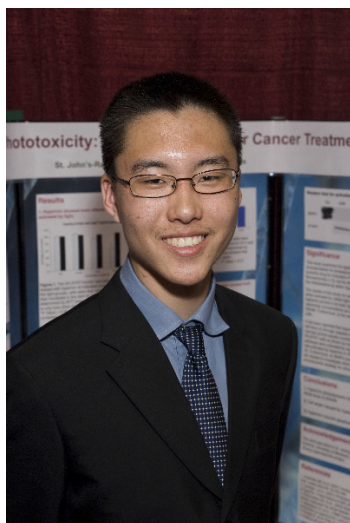


CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



Victor Li

Hypericin Phototoxicity: A Novel Strategy for Cancer Treatment

Division: Life Sciences / None

Category: Senior

Region: Manitoba Schools Science Symposium

City: Winnipeg, MB

School: St. John's Ravenscourt School

Abstract: Hypericin, a natural photosensitizer, was examined as a potential neuroblastoma treatment. SH-SY5Y cell cultures were treated with different concentrations of hypericin and irradiated with light, and it was found that low concentrations of light-activated hypericin caused significant cell death. Furthermore, it was found that apoptosis induced in this way occurred through caspase-dependent and not through BNIP3 dependent pathways. These findings suggest possibilities for future applications.

Biography

My name is Victor Li, a grade eleven student at St. John's-Ravenscourt in Winnipeg. I moved to my current residence last summer due to my family's relocation. I was born and raised in Saskatoon. I was a very lucky boy in many respects, and had a lot of opportunities at a young age. I started piano at age five, and now I'm in grade 10 piano, and part of my school concert and jazz bands. From grade 5 onwards, I was selected to learn in the AcTal (academically talented) program, and had great teachers and classmates for four years. In high school, I was part of the Advanced program. Last year, after moving to Winnipeg, I became part of the SJR student community, and was yet again exposed to many new learning opportunities. Due to the emphasis on academics that these programs placed on me at an early age, I've managed to do rather well in school, and have earned averages of 96% or higher. In extra-curricular events, I've done debating (provincial 1st place in my age category), music festival, art, student council, soccer, swimming, and of course, science fair. I now run an Arts program at a geriatric center.

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
University of Ottawa Entrance Scholarship Senior Silver Medallist - \$3000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Ottawa	\$3 000
Silver Medal - Health Sciences - Senior Sponsor: Canadian Institutes of Health Research	\$700
Total	\$9 200