

# CWSF 2014 - Windsor, Ontario



## Matthew Martin

### Flu Vaccine - The Benefits Outweigh the Risks

**Challenge:** Health

**Category:** Junior

**Region:** Toronto

**City:** Toronto, ON

**School:** Forest Hill Jr. & Sr. P.S.

**Abstract:** Health and economic costs of annual influenza are enormous; pandemics potentially catastrophic. Vaccination is an important defense, but some groups have created "vaccine anxiety" without scientific basis, or sometimes using fake data. To clarify, I collected results from 12 large clinical trials, and found flu infection rates were reduced 50%-80% without any evidence of serious side effects among thousands of people who received flu vaccine.

#### Biography

Matthew Martin is a twelve year old, grade 7 student at Forest Hill Public School in Toronto. Matthew has severe asthma and is anaphylactic to all nuts and shellfish. These allergies inspired Matthew to investigate the myths of the Flu vaccine with the hope of uncovering fact and truths that will promote higher use of vaccination. Matthew plans to continue to look into the ways that the flu vaccine can be made more efficiently and to continue to try and clarify that there is no connection between autism and vaccination. Some advice to others wishing to do a similar project is to not get too caught up in the background information, because there is a lot! Matthew is also a competitive swimmer and trains five days a week. Matthew is an active member of the school's Me to We club and has organized food drives and events at the school level. In his lifetime he hopes to make a positive difference and inspire others to do the same.

#### Awards

#### Value

Excellence Award - Junior - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Nuclear Waste Management Organization	\$100
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$1 100