

May 12, 2011

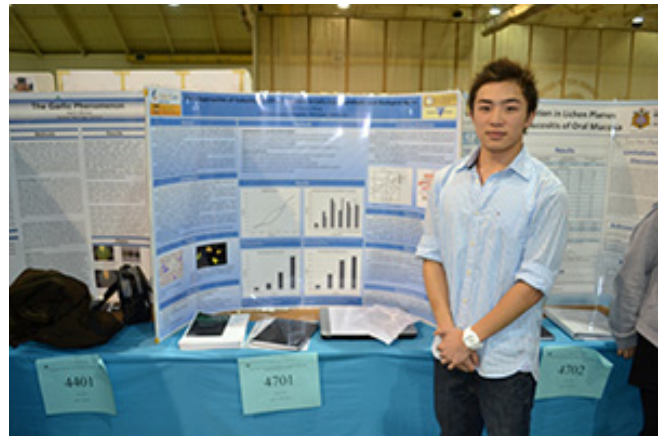
Congratulations to **Sam (Siyuan) Cheng**, a grade 12 student at Fort Richmond Collegiate. Sam won the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Division bursary for a cancer related project at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium with his project, "Novel Approaches of Inducing Death in Leukemic B-Cells Using Synthetic and Biological Agents"

This bursary enables Sam to go on to represent Manitoba at the 2011 Canada Wide Science Fair in Toronto.

The Canadian Cancer Society is proud to sponsor a young Manitoba researcher annually at the prestigious Canada Wide Science Fair.

Here is the story of how this talented student has already joined the fight against cancer.

"The reason I did my project is because clearly the cancer treatments currently aren't 100% effective. I wanted to find a "super-approach" to treating B-CLL (B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia). First what I did was take a lung cancer treatment drug, and apply it to B-CLL and try to kill 2 cell lines using this drug. It proved to be very effective. Next, I combined this drug with a commonly used B-CLL chemotherapy drug. The results showed us that using combinational therapy using low dosages of these drugs can achieve comparable levels of cell death in B-CLL cells. Also, we tried using bacterial toxins to inducing cell death. The results were very positive. Certain bacterial toxins can effectively induce cell death in B-CLL cells. We hope to move on with this project and ultimately produce a super molecule with the specificity of a drug but the deadliness of a bacterial toxin. My mentors were Dr. Spencer Gibson and Elizabeth Henson. My family is very involved in the scientific community and friends and family have been touched by cancer. This is my main motivator to do this project. I will return to the research lab this summer and hopefully continue this project. I am very happy to have acquired this bursary because it will motivate me to continue further, and it shows me that many top scientific individuals believe in my project, which is another motivational factor.



The bursary has already motivated me to compete in the Canada Wide Science Fair in Toronto coming up in the next week.

I am currently a high school student at Fort Richmond Collegiate; however, I am attending University of Manitoba as I have received conditional admission. I am currently taking courses in both high school and university. I hope to acquire a 3 year general science degree and apply for medical school."