



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

**Eleven Montgomery Blair High School Students Win at
Montgomery County Science Fair**

Silver Spring, MD—Eleven Montgomery Blair High School students, mostly from the school's Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, placed in judging and received prizes at the 56th Annual Montgomery County Science Fair, which was held on March 16-18 at the University of Maryland College Park's Reckord Armory. One of these students, Jessica Lu of Rockville, received 1st Place in Biology for her project entitled "Determination of Binding Energy Hotspots on a Broadly-Neutralizing Antibody Against HIV-1" and was awarded an expense-paid trip to compete at the 2012 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Pittsburgh, PA May 13-18, along with a \$250 prize. The event is sponsored by ScienceMONTGOMERY, a nonprofit organization of Montgomery County science and education firms.

The student winners, their projects, and their awards are as follows:

Melodi Anahtar of Bethesda, "Investigating the Efficacy of Transcription Factor STAT3 Targeting Drugs Selected Through Computational Strategies," U.S. Public Health Service—
Commissioned Officers Association Award

Shubham Chattopadhyay of Rockville, "An Information Engine to Provide an Open Data Protocol (XML), with Extensible Interface for Dynamic Queries and Computations," 3rd Place in Computer Science and Mathematics (\$50); Invitation to Central Intelligence Agency awards ceremony and tour

Evan Horne of Silver Spring, "Bacteria on Artificial and Natural Turf," 3rd Place in Biology (\$50); U.S. Public Health Service—
Commissioned Officers Association Award

Prusse Kakpovi of Silver Spring, "Rain Gardens and Hydrocarbons," Honorable Mention in Biology; U.S. Army Research Office Honorable Mention

Maureen Lei of Potomac, "Impact of Changes in Future Anthropogenic Aerosol Emissions on Northern Hemispheric Regional Air Quality and Climate," 2nd Place in Chemistry (\$100); American Industrial Hygiene Association 2nd Place (\$200); Invitation to American Meteorological Society awards banquet; Chemical Society of Washington Award; Clean Air Partners Award (\$50); Nomination to

Address:

MBHS Magnet
Foundation Inc.
P.O. Box 101
Kensington, MD
20895-0101

Keeping a Special Program Special
www.mbhsmagnet.org

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compete at SUNY Oswego GENIUS OLYMPIAD; Geological Society of Washington 1st Place; Rockville Rotary Club 1st Place Award (\$100); U.S. Army Research Office Award

Sherman Leung of Silver Spring, “Simultaneous Inhibition of SRC and STAT3 as a Novel Therapeutic Strategy in Prostate Cancer,” 2nd Place in Biology (\$100); U.S. Public Health Service—Commissioned Officers Association Award

Jessica Lu of Rockville, (additional awards) “Determination of Binding Energy Hotspots on a Broadly-Neutralizing Antibody Against HIV-1,” Biophysical Society Award (\$100); Office of Naval Research Award (\$50); U.S. Airforce Award; U.S. Army Research Office Honorable Mention; U.S. Public Health Service—Commissioned Officers Association Award

Srividya Murthy of Gaithersburg, “Role of Omega-Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids in Apoptosis in Heart Failure and Cancer,” 2nd Place in Biology (\$100); U.S. Public Health Service—Commissioned Officers Association Award

James Shepherdson of Bethesda, “Predicting Gene Expression Using Promoter Sequence Characteristics,” 1st Place in Biology (\$200); Washington Statistical Society 1st Place Award (\$150)

Ziyao Wang of Rockville, “Investigation of Transgenic T Cell Receptor Against Survivin and Its Potential Contribution to Leukemogenesis,” 3rd Place in Biology (\$50); MedImmune 1st Place Alternate Award; Office of Naval Research Award (\$50); U.S. Airforce Award; U.S. Public Health Service—Commissioned Officers Association Award

Andrew Zhang of Potomac, “Identification of Genes Essential to Mammary Gland Development in Mice by Transcriptome Analysis of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells,” Honorable Mention in Biology; American Physiological Society Award; U.S. Public Health Service—Commissioned Officers Association Award

The fair, run by ScienceMONTGOMERY, saw over 400 student participants this year. Blair magnet seniors who participated in the fair entered their Senior Research Projects under the guidance of magnet teacher Ms. Elizabeth Duval. Science fair judges awarded prizes to students in each of twelve categories. Monetary prizes were given to the first, second, and third place winners in each category. Furthermore, approximately fifty community organizations awarded additional prizes to students.

About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, parents, and alumni in 2008. Its purpose is to

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promote science, mathematics, and computer science education by supporting the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School in its efforts to develop resources and refine practices needed to provide a rigorous and enriched education for students, staff, and the community at large. The Foundation is incorporated in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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