



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Win at Montgomery County Science Fair**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Eighteen Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students placed and were awarded more than \$3,000 in prizes at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County Science Fair, which was held on March 19-21 at the University of Maryland College Park's Reckord Armory. In addition, two students were selected as representatives and one as an alternate to compete at the 2010 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in San Jose, California on May 9-14.

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

**Melodi Anahtar** of Bethesda, "Identifying Differences in Gene Expression Profiles in Normal and Cancerous Breast Tissue," Honorable Mention in Medicine and Health category, American Industrial Hygiene Association Potomac Section 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$125 and invitation to present at meeting), Graduate Women in Science Winner;

**Allison Arai** of Kensington, "Long-Distance Regulatory Interactions of Engrailed Regulatory DNA in *Drosophila Melanogaster* after Targeted Deletion of DNA," 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Biology category (\$50), U.S. Public Health Service Honorable Mention, Graduate Women in Science Winner;

**Angela Choi** of Silver Spring and **Dzi Do** of Gaithersburg, "Implications of Self-terminated Memory Search for Understanding Retrieval Dynamics," American Psychological Association Winner;

**Sophia Deng** of Gaithersburg, "Identification and Colocalization of Dense Core Vesicle Regulator Ia-2 with Serotonin in Taste Buds," 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Biology category (\$100), U.S. Army Honorable Mention, U.S. Public Health Service Honorable Mention;

**Jeremy Fallick** of Bethesda, "Development of a Computational Model for Ancient Western Warfare," ISEF Award Runner Up (\$100 and alternate for ISEF trip), 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Computer Science category (\$200), U.S. Army Honorable Mention, U.S. Air Force Winner;

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**Lindsey Fernandez**, "Improving Classification Accuracies in Pattern Recognition Based Myoelectric Control," Honorable Mention in Engineering category, American Society of Mechanical Engineers 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$50), Office of Naval Research Winner (\$50), U.S. Army Honorable Mention, Optical Society of America Winner;

**Jacob Hurwitz** of Rockville, "Decycling Densities of Tessellations," ISEF Award (\$250 and expense-paid trip to ISEF), 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Mathematics category, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 1<sup>st</sup> Place, U.S. Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Mu Alpha Theta Winner; U.S. Air Force Winner;

**Shilpa Kannan** of Potomac, "A Novel In Vitro Model of Mmp-2 Induction During Hypoxia for Ischemia Treatment," MedImmune 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$100, 6-week paid internship), Society for In Vitro Biology Winner, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Association Honorable Mention;

**Vicky Lai** of Rockville, "Modeling Risk and Uncertainty: Cyber Attack Scenario," Honorable Mention in Computer Science category, U.S. Army Honorable Mention, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Honorable Mention, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Association Honorable Mention, U.S. Air Force Winner;

**Yifan Li** of Rockville, "Differentiation of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells to Retinal Pigment Epithelium Cells in Culture," 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Biology category (\$100), U.S. Public Health Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, U.S. Army Honorable Mention;

**Kamal Ndousse** of Boyds, "The Baryon Mass in the Large Nc and Heavy Quark Limits," U.S. Army 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Physics category (\$100), Office of Naval Research Winner (\$50), U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Association Honorable Mention;

**Anand Oza** of North Potomac, **Rohan Puttagunta** of Gaithersburg, and **Nils Molina** of Bethesda, "Sane Bounds on Van Der Waerden-type Numbers," 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Mathematics category (\$100), Mu Alpha Theta Winner;

**Melissa Truong** of North Potomac, "Agents of Emerging Rickettsial and Ehrlichial Diseases in Ticks, Virginia," American Industrial Hygiene Association 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$100), Honorable Mention in Biology category, U.S. Public Health Service Honorable Mention, Central Intelligence Agency Winner (invitation to awards ceremony at CIA),

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Graduate Women in Science Winner;

**Jennifer Wang** of Clarksburg and Grace Young (of The Potomac School), "Validation of Parabolic Ion Trap Geometries for Application within Quantum Computing," ISEF Award (\$250 and expense-paid trip to ISEF), 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Physics category (\$200), National Space Club 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$500 and invitation to NASA Goddard luncheon), MIT Club 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$100 and subscription to *MIT Technology Review*), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$150), U.S. Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Office of Naval Research Winner (\$50), American Society of Naval Engineers/Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Winner (one-year membership and invitation to present at annual symposium);

**Hong Yi Xia**, "Determination of the Effect of Modifying G $\beta$ 5 Expression Levels on Drosophila Oxidative Stress Resistance," Sigma Xi FDA Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$50), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Biology category (\$50), Central Intelligence Agency Winner (invitation to awards ceremony at CIA);

**Conway Xu** of Potomac, "Genomic Analysis of Metabolic Pathways Involved in Cobalamin Assimilation, Branched Chain Amino Acid Oxidation, and Biotin Metabolism," 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Medicine and Health category (\$100), U.S. Army Honorable Mention, Central Intelligence Agency Winner (invitation to awards ceremony at CIA);

**Justin Yu** of Silver Spring, "Characterization of Iron Bearing Oxide for Rust Detection in Reinforced Concrete Structures," Honorable Mention in Physics category, American Nuclear Society of Washington 5<sup>th</sup> Place, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Honorable Mention;

**Xinyi Zhou** of Rockville, "Exploring Alternative Splicing as a Novel Mechanism for Circadian Rhythm Dysfunction in Severe Autism," 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Biochemistry category (\$100), U.S. Army Honorable Mention;

First to Third Places, with accompanying monetary prizes, as well as Honorable Mention, were awarded to students in each of twelve categories. Of the twelve first place category winners, five were selected to compete at the ISEF. In addition, approximately fifty community organizations awarded prizes to contestants. The fair is sponsored by ScienceMONTGOMERY, a nonprofit organization of Montgomery County science and education firms. Current and retired Magnet teachers, Ms. Elizabeth Duval and Ms. Susan Ragan, advised students regarding their research projects.

# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

## **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 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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