

Alert:

Spring 2009
Volume:5 Edition:1

Supported by the
Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation and the
College Board

"Listening to the presentations of my peers raised my awareness of both local and global health issues and strengthened my dedication to public service and improving the human condition worldwide."

Chelsea Jurman
Roslyn High School
Roslyn Heights, NY

"The experience is one of the hardest but most beneficial science fairs that you can enter. The judging is more intense, more to the point, and more in-depth than any other science fair."

Stephen Trusheim
Breck School
Golden Valley, MN

"The YES Competition was a wonderful experience from the minute I arrived until I took off from the airport to go home. YES was the most professional and most accommodating competition I have ever participated in. The presentations were fascinating. I would highly recommend this competition to anyone interested in scientific research."

Emily Summerbell
Collins Hill High School
Suwanee, GA

High school students from 24 states compete in the sixth annual YES Competition!

Sixty high school juniors and seniors arrived in Washington, D.C. on April 17, 2009, ready to present their research to compete for scholarship awards in the Young Epidemiology Scholars (YES) Competition.

Alexander Chernyakhovsky and Amrita Sehgal each won \$50,000 college scholarships for their original YES research projects. Alexander developed computer-based modeling and simulation to predict the next areas of Avian influenza (bird flu) in humans and the timelines for outbreaks. He used data on waterfowl migration to track strains of bird flu viruses and determine the routes by which it can spread. Currently a junior, he plans to

study biology and computer science in college. Amrita's research focused on teenagers' intake of calcium and their risk of osteoporosis later in life. She found that only 38 percent of teenagers in her study consumed the recommended daily amount of calcium and that only 23 percent of the girls got the recommended daily calcium intake as compared to 50 percent of boys. Amrita believes her results show a need for increased health education among teenagers to promote the importance of calcium intake. She will attend the University of California, Berkeley, and plans to pursue a career in public health.

continued on page four

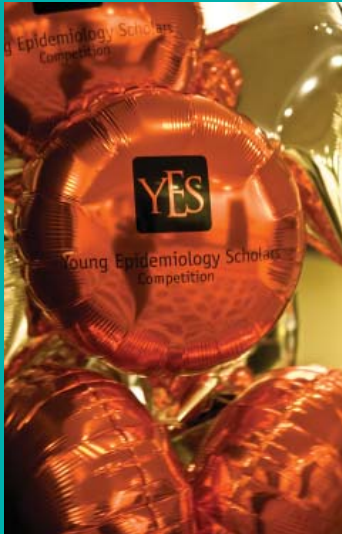


Young
Epidemiology
Scholars

Visit www.collegeboard.com/yes

Alert:

2008-2009 YES Competition Winners



2009-10
YES Competition

Submission Deadline

February 1, 2010
by 9:00 am ET

YES National Event

April 23-26, 2010

First Place \$50,000 Scholarship

Alexander Chernyakhovsky
William Mason High School
Mason, Ohio
**Global Epidemiological Analysis
of Avian Influenza Viruses in
Humans**

Amrita Sehgal
Menlo-Atherton High School
Atherton, California
**Can We Start the War on
Osteoporosis Early? Are
Teenagers Taking Enough
Calcium?**

Second Place \$35,000 Scholarship

Allan Joseph
Saint Charles Preparatory School
Columbus, Ohio
**A Multi-Sport Epidemiologic
Comparison of ACL Injuries in
High School Athletics**

Ilana Rice
Ossining High School
Ossining, New York
**Examining the Relationship
between Partner Attachment and
Combat-Related Posttraumatic
Stress Disorder**

Third Place \$20,000 Scholarship

Chelsea Jurman
Roslyn High School
Roslyn Heights, New York
**Your Children May Pay More
Attention than You Think:
The Link between Teens'
Perceptions of Parent Alcohol
Use and Monitoring and Teen
Alcohol Use and Acceptance**

Joanna Kao
West High School
Iowa City, Iowa
**Possible Roles of Bilirubin and
Breastfeeding in Protection
of Premature Infants against
Retinopathy of Prematurity**

National Finalists \$15,000 Scholarship

Hannah Bands
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Baltimore, Maryland
**The Effects of Asian American
Mothers' Marital Relationship
Quality and Depression on
Child Social Outcomes**

Sydney Beache
Louisville Collegiate School
Louisville, Kentucky
**Finding Connections: Reaching
Underserved Women with
Mammography**

Jason Bishai
Dulaney High School
Timonium, Maryland
**Quality or Quantity? The
Role of Case-Detection and
Access to Care in Controlling
Tuberculosis in India**

Avtalya Feldman
Kehillah Jewish High School
Palo Alto, California
**The Spread Pattern of
Influenza B at Home Versus at
School in an 8th Grade Cohort**

Marilyn Piccirillo
Parkway West High School
Ballwin, Missouri
**Catheter-Associated
Enterococcal Bloodstream
Infections: Is Removal of
the Catheter Necessary for
Successful Management?**

Visakha Suresh
Plano West Senior High School
Plano, Texas
**The Effect of Socioeconomic
Determinants on Nutritional
Behaviors and Physical
Activity Patterns**



YES National Finalists



Young
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YES Scholar Shares Family History

As I walked into the auditorium for the finals of the YES Competition, I couldn't help thinking about my father. I have grown up hearing, over and over again, the story of the day that changed my father's life. His parents immigrated to America in 1949. They came to this country with nine family members to support, one hundred dollars, and did not speak English. My grandfather worked as a manual laborer on the railroad to provide for his family. Although my father attended a very poor school, he read every book he could get his hands on and somehow managed to take the College Board's PSAT. His PSAT score qualified him to win a National Merit Scholarship. When he went to receive the award, the donor asked whether he was going to Harvard or Yale. He said neither and that he hadn't considered applying to either. The donor insisted that he apply, telling him that he had too much potential not to try. My grandparents scraped together the money for an application to Yale. Even the fee for the application was a lot to ask from his parents, although they would later say it was the best money they had ever spent. My father was admitted to Yale College and later to Yale Law School. Over the years,

he has often spoken about the College Board and winning the scholarship that changed his life.

I know that the College Board and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have made an extraordinary difference in my life as well. The entire YES Competition has been a once in a lifetime experience. It was an amazing opportunity to discuss my research with some of the most prominent members of the scientific community, including university professors and experts from state and federal health agencies. Although I undoubtedly learned a lot about the importance of scientific rigor, I learned so much more than that. I learned how to think on my feet, defend my hypothesis, and use my data to respond to challenges and questions.

One week after the YES Competition, the swine flu epidemic hit the newspapers. My YES study looked at an outbreak of Influenza B that had closed a local middle school the previous year. I hypothesized different reasons for the virus's particular spread patterns. As I watched the swine flu epidemic unfold, I had a new



understanding of the difficulties of tracking, predicting, and controlling its spread.

I will always remember what I learned and experienced at the YES Competition. I know my father and I are both thankful for the amazing opportunities that this country has offered to us. I am grateful to the College Board and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for their support and leadership.

by Avtayla Feldman

YES Winners Featured in Times Square

What fun facts do you know about The Reuters Sign in Times Square? It is the world's largest digital sign, measures 7,400 square feet, and stands as tall as a 23-story building. It takes 11 screens on the Reuters building to make up the entire sign. The Reuters property is in the best advertising location in Times Square because it faces oncoming traffic. Also, did you know that over 1.5 million people pass through Times Square each day and 30 million tourists visit Times Square annually?

Can you imagine seeing your picture displayed on this spectacular attraction? On April 21, the YES first place scholarship winners had this honor! Alexander Chernyakhovsky and Amrita Sehgal were featured several times during that day. Congratulations Alexander and Amrita!!

pictures courtesy of PR Newswire



Dr. Sharon Kardia Encourages the Next Generation



Dr. Sharon Kardia spoke passionately about the state of our nation's health and the need for help saying, "We could really use people with new ideas and new capabilities." Her message was met with enthusiasm from an audience of over 200 including the 60 YES finalists.

Dr. Kardia is a professor at the University of Michigan where she is Chair of Epidemiology, Director of the Public Health Genetics Program, Director of the Life Science and Society Program, and Co-Director of the Michigan Center for Genomics and Public Health. Her main research area is in the genomic epidemiology of chronic diseases, especially cardiovascular disease and its risk factors. She is particularly interested in gene-environment, gene-gene interactions, and in modeling

complex relationships between genetic variation, environmental variation, and risk of common chronic diseases. Her work also includes using gene expression and proteomic profiles for new ways to classify molecular tumors and predict survival in lung and ovarian cancers.

In addition to her scientific research, Dr. Kardia actively promotes education, research, and community engagement on issues that arise from the ethical and social ramifications of the life sciences. She works to ensure that advances in the life sciences are applied responsibly to benefit the public's health and well being.

Dr. Kardia relayed how her own career interests were sparked at age 13 in a biology class and stressed the importance of this time period for these students who are poised to be the next generation of national and global leaders. "The world desperately needs people like you who are intelligent and sensible. From the talks I saw today you're already thinking at the Master's level, and you're in the mainstream of where epidemiology is now. The question is where are you going to take it? Don't be afraid to be a little wild – DREAM BIG."

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(continued from page one)

Alexander and Amrita were two of the 60 students who competed for scholarships at the YES National Event. The finalists were chosen from more than 560 students who submitted original research projects on a broad array of health topics. All 60 students were awarded scholarships of at least \$2,000—with the top 12 YES Scholars receiving awards ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000.

The YES Competition is also an opportunity to connect with like-minded student scholars and distinguished professionals in epidemiology and public health. Students heard from inspiring speakers including Dr. Harvey Fineberg, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies; Dr. Jesse Goodman, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Dr. Sharon Kardia, University of Michigan; and Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika, University of Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and administered by the College Board, the YES Competition is designed to spur students' interests in public health, specifically epidemiology, with the goal of developing methods for disease prevention, control, and treatment to improve health.

YES National Event Photos



Young
Epidemiology
Scholars

The College Board
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Visit www.collegeboard.com/yes