



May 18th, 2024

Bay Area Students Win Grand Awards at Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair

Los Angeles, California – The achievements of STEM students were recognized at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held in Los Angeles (USA) from May 12th to 17th, 2024. Participants earn a place at this prestigious competition by advancing from local, regional, or national competitions.

Top students from Hamilton's Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair (BASEF), the Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair, and Youth Science Canada (YSC) are chosen to compete on the international stage at ISEF. This year's broader Canadian delegation consisted of 17 students, with five of the delegates originating from BASEF.

At the ISEF competition, three BASEF participants received Grand Awards, presented to the top students in each of the 22 judged categories:

Alia Wahban, a Grade 11 student from Hillfield Strathallan College (Hamilton) won first place in her category, Energy: Sustainable Materials And Design. In her project, Alia developed a low-cost sensor to monitor for dangerous hydrogen gas leaks. She takes home a \$5,000 cash award and a full tuition scholarship to Alfred University (New York).

Anthony Efthimiadis, a Grade 9 student from Oakville Trafalgar High School (Oakville) won first place in his category, Robotics and Intelligent Machines. In his project, Anthony developed a software tool featuring artificial intelligence to accurately screen patients for skin cancer. He takes home a \$5,000 cash award.

Each of these first-place winners also returns to Canada with \$1,000 cash for their school plus another \$1,000 cash for BASEF.

Maya LeBlanc, a Grade 11 student from Abbey Park High School (Oakville) won fourth place in her category, Biomedical And Health Sciences. In her project, Maya developed a new tool to detect and diagnose systematic lupus erythematosus, an incurable autoimmune disease. She takes home a \$500 cash award.

Two other local students, Lily Jiaying Song (Brantford) and William Yixi Xu (Dundas), also participated in the ISEF competition.

In total, nearly 2,000 young scientists and engineers representing approximately 70 regions across the world competed in Los Angeles. Nearly \$9 million USD was awarded to recognize the innovation, scientific rigour, and creative problem solving demonstrated by these students.

BASEF wishes to recognize the tremendous efforts of all participants and joins in celebrating the accomplishments of the winning students from the Montreal and YSC delegations. A strong showing from our Canadian delegates highlights the ingenuity and scientific prowess of our country's students.