



MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release

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CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF COVESTRO PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

FOUR LOCAL STUDENTS ADVANCE TO INTEL INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR; THREE WIN CARNEGIE SCIENCE AWARDS

PITTSBURGH, March 29, 2018 – More than 1,000 students representing schools throughout the region competed last week in Carnegie Science Center’s 79th annual Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair—one of the oldest and largest science fairs in the nation. Awards totaling more than \$1 million in cash and scholarships were announced at a ceremony at Heinz Field on Saturday.

Four students were selected to represent the region at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF), which will be held in Pittsburgh from May 13–18. These young scientists are:

- **Benjamin Cummings**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, with the project *Carbon Nanotube-Based Flu Sensor*.
- **Ik-Hyun Kim**, Vincentian Academy, with the project *Gene Methylation is a Driver of Cellular Differentiation for Intrinsic Subtype of Breast Cancer During Carcinogenesis*.
- **Nicole Munne**, Peters Township High School, with the project *Development of an In Vitro Liver Model for NAFLD*.
- **Mia Pellegrini**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, with the project *Developing an Improved Marker for Protein Purification*.

ISEF will bring together about 1,800 students from more than 75 nations, regions and territories to compete for scholarships; internships; scientific field trips; and the grand prize, a trip to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden. Carnegie Science Center was instrumental in the selection of Pittsburgh as a host city.

Three students were selected to receive Carnegie Science Awards because of their outstanding projects. The awards will be conferred May 4 at the 22nd annual Carnegie Science Awards Celebration at Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh’s Oakland neighborhood.

Awardees are:

- **Olina Mukherjee**, Kentucky Avenue School, *Complex Social Behavior in Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches*.
- **Molly Hayes**, Cambria Heights Middle School, *Phantom Limb Syndrome*.
- **Beatrice Milnes**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, *Macrophages are Required for Adult Mourning Gecko (*Lepidodactylus Lugubris*) Tail Regeneration*.

Among other honors, 111 students earned Perseverance Awards for longevity of participation in the science fair, and 21 universities awarded a total of 90 scholarships.

Category Award winners receive cash prizes and medals. The projects of first-place Category Award winners are on display in the lobby at Carnegie Science Center from now through Sunday, April 1. The first-place winners are:

Junior Division (Grade 6)

Behavioral and Consumer Sciences: **David Thomas**, Holy Cross Academy.

Biological Sciences: **Olina Mukherjee**, Kentucky Avenue School.

Chemistry: **Mia Maurizio**, St. Bernadette School.

Physical Sciences & Engineering: **Adhitya Thirumala**, Dorseyville Middle School.

Intermediate (Grades 7-8)

Behavioral and Social Science: **Molly Hayes**, Cambria Heights Middle School.

Biology: **John O'Toole**, St. Kilian Parish School.

Chemistry: **Shivani Watson**, The Ellis School.

Computer Science/Math: **Arvind Seshan**, Dorseyville Middle School.

Consumer Science: **Morgan Phillips**, Mary Queen of Apostles Catholic School.

Earth/Space/Environment: **Lily Giovannelli**, Mary Queen of Apostles Catholic School.

Engineering/Robotics: The team of **Kush Bandi** and **Jackson Zemek**, Winchester Thurston School.

Medicine/Health/Microbiology: **Étienne Strandberg-Houzé**, Falk Laboratory School.

Physics: **Jesse Hilko**, Freeport Area Middle School.

Senior Division (Grades 9-12)

Behavioral and Social Science: **Rajeev Godse**, Fox Chapel Area High School.

Biology: **Beatrice Milnes**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School.

Chemistry: **Mia Pellegrini**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School.

Computer Science/Math: **Christopher Lee**, North Allegheny High School.

Earth/Space/Environment: The team of **Sanjit Beriwal** and **Abinav Sekhar**, North Allegheny High School.

Engineering/Robotics: **James Baxter**, Pine-Richland High School.

Medicine/Health/Microbiology: **Daniela Naumov**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School.

Physics: **Thomas Anand**, St. John Paul II Homeschool Co-op.

For a complete list of winners at all levels in all categories, visit <http://www.pittsburghsciencefair.org>.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

Accessibility: Features for All

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or info@carnegiesciencecenter.org. Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2017, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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