



Science Fair
Foundation^{BC}

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**Science Fair Foundation
of British Columbia**

Founding Patron
Dr. Michael Smith (1932 – 2000)
Nobel Laureate

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Science Fair Alumnus Accepted into UBC MD/PhD Program

Clara Westwell-Roper, a BC Science Fair Alumnus, is one of three candidates accepted into the University of British Columbia combined MD/PhD program for 2008.

The combined MD/PhD Program is an integrated program jointly administered by the UBC Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. In addition to fulfilling the requirements of the regular undergraduate MD curriculum, MD/PhD students undertake graduate level coursework as required by their chosen field of research. Curriculum planning, coursework, and research training are closely integrated and coordinated between the basic sciences and clinical disciplines throughout the 7-year program.

Ms. Westwell-Roper will be nominated for a CIHR MD/PhD studentship Award (\$21,000 per year for six years) beginning in March 2009. She will be doing her graduate work with Dr. Bruce Verchere at the Child and Family Research Institute. Her PhD project will focus on the role of innate immunity in diabetes development.

Science Fairs sparked Clara's interest in health sciences and played a critical role in the development of her research focus. 'Science fair project work allowed me to explore cellular immunology at an early age, and to develop the analytical skills needed in a research environment. Remarkably, I first met one of my future MD/PhD classmates at a national science fair when we were in high school. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to pursue my research and clinical interests at UBC,' said Ms. Westwell-Roper following the announcement.

More information on the combined MD/PhD program can be found at:

http://www.med.ubc.ca/education/md_ugrad/mdphd/overview.htm

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About the Science Fair Foundation^{BC}

The Science Fair Foundation supports science education through the science fair program to foster curiosity and build for the future. The Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia (SFF BC) is a non-profit, charitable organization incorporated in February 1998 to support and promote science fair activity in British Columbia. The Foundation is committed to ensuring ongoing financial support in order to build a stronger and more visible Science Fair Program throughout the province. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit our web site at: www.sciencefairs.ca.