



Science Fair  
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**Science Fair Foundation  
of British Columbia**

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

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### **Science Fairs: From British Columbia to Taiwan**

February 15, two British Columbia teens and an educator will board a plane for Taipei to represent British Columbia and Canada at the annual Taiwan International Science Fair to be held February 16 to 23, 2008. Kimberly Gulevich, a Grade 10 student at Dr. Kearney Junior Secondary School in Fort St. John and Brian Le, a Grade 12 student at Kelly Road Secondary School in Prince George will be accompanied by Mr. Kevin Frankham, a teacher at Bert Ambrose Elementary School in Fort St. John. Kimberly's project *Biodiesel: Does it make Cents?* studies the practicality of biodiesel fuel by researching the argument of food versus fuel - comparing the energy efficiencies of biodiesel and petroleum diesel - and studying the effect of temperature on biodiesel. She concluded blends of biodiesel were found to be the most practical for northern temperatures, as well as the most practical for current canola production.

Brian Le's project *Blood Brain Barrier Breached!* investigated whether SVCT2 is an effective and safe protein to attach to certain brain tumour treatments and bypass the Blood Brain Barrier. Using current information on how specific proteins work, he devised a procedure that should allow SVCTs to attach with specific forms of cancer treatments. This should allow for SVCT2 to connect with SAHA and bypass with no unwanted toxic side-effects.

The students' week at the Taiwan Fair will include a home-stay with a Taiwanese family, involvement in cultural activities, presentation to judges and a public exhibition of their work. Both Ms. Gulevich and Mr. Le are science fair veterans, and have participated in their local Regional Science Fair and at the national Canada-Wide Science Fair. This spring, hundreds of British Columbia students will present projects for school science fairs. As a result they will develop an appreciation for scientific research as they engage in their own discoveries, prepare displays and present their work. At least 2,500 of these young scientists, from schools throughout British Columbia, will take part in the annual Regional Science Fairs in March and April. As Brian commented, "I am committed to developing myself into a future scientist and have immersed myself in challenging science programs."

'Through scientific research, Science Fair participants are able to gain important life and job skills which help reveal where new career opportunities exist' said Patti Leigh, Executive Director, Science Fair Foundation of BC. 'Science fairs allow students to stretch their imaginations and intellect, and they also provide a chance for young scientists to network with their peers and with potential mentors.'

This is the fifteenth year that British Columbian students have attended the Taiwan International Science Fair as part of an international science fair exchange program established by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia. British Columbia regional science fairs are supported by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia, a non-profit organization whose vision is to sustain and enhance the science culture of the youth of British Columbia.



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