



Science Fair  
Foundation<sup>BC</sup>

1455 Quebec Street  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V6A 3Z7

Tel: [604] 443-7557  
Fax: [604] 443-7430  
E-mail: scifair@scienceworld.ca

**Science Fair Foundation  
of British Columbia**

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

February 25, 2008

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

Contact: Patti Leigh  
(604) 443-7557  
pleigh@sciencefairfoundationbc.ca

### **BC Students Win International Awards in Taiwan!**

Kimmie Gulevich, a Grade 10 student from Dr. Kearney Junior Secondary School in Fort St. John, and Brian Le, a Grade 12 student from Kelly Road Secondary School in Prince George have returned big winners from the Taiwan International Science Fair, held February 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> in Taipei, Taiwan.

Ms. Gulevich's work entitled *"Biodiesel: Does it Make Cents?"* was awarded third place in the Environmental Science category. Her project studied the practicality of biodiesel 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. Mr. Le's work entitled *'Blood Brain Barrier Breached'* was awarded third place in the Medicine and Health Science category. His project investigated whether SVCT2 is an effective and safe protein to attach to certain brain tumour treatments and bypass the Blood Brain Barrier.

The students were accompanied by Mr. Kevin Frankham, a teacher at Bert Ambrose Elementary School in Fort St. John. The students were selected to participate based on their science fair project work, their effective communication skills and their ambassadorial qualities. Mr. Frankham was chosen as the educator because of his broad teaching experience and his many years of enthusiastic support of the science fair program and its educational benefits for students.

While in Taiwan Kimmie and Brian home-stayed with a local family which provided both a wonderful ambassadorial opportunity as well as a unique and incredible cultural experience. The International component of the competition included entries from Canada, Hong Kong, Iran, Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and United States.

As Mr. Frankham says, 'It has been an amazing experience for all of us. We have seen some interesting sites and had a chance for wonderful cultural and scientific exchanges with people from many countries. It has been a memorable experience.'

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 set up by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia. The Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia is supported by the Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development.

'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.'

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.

-end-