



Science Fair
Foundation^{BC}

9th Floor - 1188 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6E 4A2

Tel: [604] 602-5262
Fax: [604] 683-6567
E-mail: info@sciencefairs.ca
Website: www.sciencefairs.ca

**Science Fair Foundation
of British Columbia**

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

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Contact: Patti Leigh
(604) 602-5262
pleigh@sciencefairfoundationbc.ca

BC Science Fair Students Win International Awards in Taiwan!

Michael Peters from Glenlyon Norfolk School in Victoria and Nicholas Randall from Penticton Secondary School in Penticton, both Grade 12 students, have returned home big winners from the Taiwan International Science Fair, held February 1st to 7th in Taipei, Taiwan.

Mr. Peters received 2nd Place in his category for his project, an invention, titled *The Actuator: a New Wheelchair Designed to Prevent DVT*. He designed a wheelchair that increases circulation to the legs to prevent deep vein thrombosis in wheel chair-bound people. His secondary purpose was to increase the range of motion of the legs and prevent excessive scar tissue post-operatively. Mr. Randall received 4th Place for his project *Yogurt Trek* which investigated the concentration of probiotic bacteria in three probiotic yogurts after refrigerated storage (in opened yogurt container) and also a week before the expiry date (in unopened container).

The students were accompanied by Ms. Anjula Corbin, Principal at Spruceland Elementary School in Prince George and Chair of the Central Interior Regional Science Fair committee. The students were selected to participate based on their science fair project work, their effective communication skills and their ambassadorial qualities. Ms. Corbin was chosen as the educator because of her broad teaching experience and her years of enthusiastic support of the science fair program and its educational benefits for students.

During their time in Taiwan Michael and Nicholas 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 13 countries including Azerbaijan, Canada, Hong Kong, Kuwait, New Zealand, Philippines, Sakha, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand and the United States.

As Nicholas says, "The week was amazing! I visited the majestic Chiang-Kai-shek Memorial Hall, Taipei 101, the National space organization, the countryside of Yilan, the riverside market in Danshui, and (a personal favorite) the Pandas at the Taipei zoo. My host family was awesome!" British Columbian students have attended the Taiwan International Science Fair since its inception in 1991 as part of an International science fair exchange program set up by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia.

'Through scientific research and innovation, 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.

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