



Two Ottawa students win major Manning Innovation Awards at 2014 Canada Wide Science Fair

WINDSOR, ON (May 15, 2014) -- Two health-related projects from two Ottawa students captured major Young Canadian Innovator prize money from the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation at the 53rd annual Canada Wide Science Fair held this week at the University of Windsor.

A game-changing design project from 16-year-old **Daniel McInnis** earned him one of four \$4,500 Manning Young Canadian Innovator Awards. McInnis developed a new, cost-effective and efficient process for the manufacture and fitting of prosthetic limbs. He would later add some extra kudos – like a Senior Gold Medal, and, oh yes, getting recognized as being the Best Project in the Fair! As a young innovator with another year of high school, Daniel can also defer a decision on seven offers of university entrance scholarships.

A second ground-breaking project also earned **Aditya Mohan**, 17-year old student at Colonel By Secondary School, a \$4,500 Manning Young Canadian Innovator Award for developing an advanced and viable treatment for HIV. Aditya Mohan also won a senior Excellence Silver medal and four offers of university entrance scholarships.

The two will attend the Manning Foundation's National Innovation Awards Gala October 22 in Ottawa. This year the Canada Wide Science Fair brought together 463 young scientists in grades 7-12 to compete for close to \$1 million in cash, prizes and scholarships and to showcase bright minds that are innovating for Canada.

“Canada’s economic and social future depends on the proper investment and mentorship of young innovators who are emerging visionaries and change agents. The encouragement of organizations like Youth Science Canada and the Ernest C. Manning Innovation Awards Foundation is a fundamental commitment to the realization of the economic and social opportunities that innovative minds create for Canada, and indeed globally, starting with our youngest innovators. We are pleased to be recognizing and fostering that mindset among Canadian youth,” said Jennifer Diakiw, president, Ernest C. Manning Innovation Awards Foundation.

“Canada’s bright minds need the encouragement of organizations like Youth Science Canada and the Ernest C. Manning Innovation Awards Foundation if they are to help society realize the economic and social opportunities that innovative minds create for Canada, and indeed globally,” she said.

Daniel McInnis, Age 16, -- \$4,500

Entitled “Picture This: A Novel Approach to Limb Donor Identification & Prosthetic Design,” McInnis developed an improved method for low-budget structured light scanning, resulting in extremely high resolution 3-D scans. “The scanner has shown to be a valid option for making comfortable but low-cost prosthetic limbs that are aesthetically accurate for the users wearing them. As well, the scanner is the first to show potential for being the correct solution for accurately matching donor limbs with ideal recipient amputees,” explained McInnis.

Aditya Mohan, Age 17, \$4,500

Mohan’s project was entitled “Development of a Novel Thymic Stromal Lymphopoietin Based Treatment for HIV.” He explained that current treatments for HIV-AIDS are based on the Interleukin-7 (IL-7) cytokine and Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART). The IL-7 cytokine primes the white blood cells in the body for attack from infected cells. One main problem with the IL-7 cytokine is the decreased responsiveness of white blood cells to its presence over time. Mohan’s novel idea uses Thymic Stromal Lymphopoietin (TSLPR), a cytokine that stimulates the immune system in a similar way, but without the gradual reduction in responsiveness seen with traditional IL-7 treatment. In combination with HAART therapy, TSLPR is many times more effective than the current IL-7, HAART combination therapy.

The Ernest C. Manning Innovation Awards Foundation introduced its Young Canadian Program in 1992 to recognize innovative Canada-Wide Science Fair projects. Each year a judging team selects eight winning projects, four of which earn the \$4,500 Manning Young Canadian Innovator Awards, and four others earn \$500 Manning Innovation Achievement Awards. For more information about the Foundation and its awards visit www.manningawards.ca Follow on Twitter @ManningAwardsCA Like on Facebook/Manning Awards.

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