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Press Release: USA Student Wins World Neuroscience Competition

August, 2017; Washington, DC, USA

Future neuroscientists from 25 countries around the world met in Washington, DC this week to compete in the nineteenth **World Brain Bee Championship**. The Brain Bee is a neuroscience competition for young students, 13 to 19 years of age. It was hosted by the **American Psychological Association**.

The International Brain Bee President and Founder is **Dr. Norbert Myslinski (nmyslinski@umaryland.edu)** of **The University of Maryland Dental School, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences**. Its purpose is to motivate young men and women to study the brain, and to inspire them to enter careers in the basic and clinical neurosciences. We need bright young men and women to help treat and find cures for the 1000 neurological and psychological disorders around the world. The Brain Bee "Builds Better Brains to Fight Brain Disorders."

The 2017 World Brain Bee Champion is **Sojas Wagle**, a sophomore from **Har-Ber High School in Arkansas, USA**.



Legend: Sojas Wagle

Sojas has a breath taking history of accomplishments. He is the captain of his school's Quiz Bowl Team, and was state MVP for the last two years. He placed third in the National Geographic Bee in 2015. Last year, he was chosen for "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" Whiz Kids Edition. By the end of the game show, he had won \$250,000, and later donated some of his winnings to his school district and a children's hospital. He is also a member of the Arkansas Philharmonic Youth Orchestra where he plays violin as first chair.

Second Place went to **Milena Malcharek** of **August Witkowski High School in Cracow, Poland**. Third Place went to **Elwin Raj A/L P. Raj Vethamuthu** from **Sbpi Gopeng High School in Malaysia**. **Germany** and **Israel** tied for fourth place, and **Iran** came in fifth. **Sixth thru tenth places went to Grenada, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Korea**.



Legend: Third Place, First Place, Founder, Second Place

While in the US, twelve DC Ambassadors invited their respective national champions to visit their embassies to be honored, including **India, Kenya, Egypt, Ukraine, Korea, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Australia, Poland and Germany. The Brain Bee involves more than knowledge; it involves relationships. It is an instrument of peace. The friendships and mutual respect developed during the Brain Bee will last a lifetime.**

The following are some edited comments from the competitors after the competition:

Korea: I became a global person, more confident, and more comfortable interacting with diverse people.

Australia: The Brain Bee has been one of the best experiences of my life.

United States: It made me more passionate about neuroscience.

Romania: I found out that this is what I want to do.

Singapore: It gave me a deeper interest in the everlasting enigmas in the vast field of neuroscience.

Italy: It gave me the ambition to work hard to find a place among the proud and satisfied neuroscientists that I met at the Brain Bee.

Germany: The IBB absolutely confirmed my plan of study. It not only opened doors to my mind, but I am sure it will open doors to my chosen university.

Ukraine: The Brain Bee showed me the magnificence and importance of neuroscience. It connected me with international people with the same interests as me, like neurons connect with each other.

Malaysia: I am now motivated to make a change in the lives of people with brain disorders.

The Brain Bee competition has three tiers. Worldwide there are about 200 local Chapter competitions, each one involving many schools. The winners of those then compete in their respective Regional (National) championships. The Regional winners then go on to represent their

countries in the World Championship. They are tested on their knowledge of the human brain including such topics as intelligence, emotions, memory, sleep, vision, hearing, sensation, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, addictions and brain research. The competition involves oral tests, a neuroanatomy laboratory exam with real human brains, a neurohistology test, and a patient diagnosis component with patient actors. Sample questions include: What kind of molecules are semaphorin, ephrin, neuropilin and plexin? Sonic hedgehog is important for the development of what part of the nervous system? What is the medical term for when you start dreaming before you fall asleep? Stargazer mice are experimental models for which type of epilepsy? The winner will receive \$3000, a trophy, and the right to represent the Brain Bee around the world.

Official List of 2017 World Brain Bee Competitor Information

Prepared by Dr. Norbert Myslinski, Founder and World-Wide Director

<u>Region</u>	<u>Name</u>
Australia	Risini Gamage
Brazil	Hellen Valério Chaves Moura de Souza
Canada	Prerana Keerthi
China	Yixian Fu
Egypt	Mai Abdellatif Mahmoud Ismail
Germany	Julius Böhme
Grenada	Leondre Joseph
India	Rutvik Savaliya
Iran	Parsa Pat
Israel	Shira Ben Ami
Italy	Bianca Slivinschi
Japan	Yu Fujimura
Kenya	Ashley Mwikali
Korea	Soyeon Shim
Macau	Lei Hei Chit
Malaysia	Elwin Raj A/L Raj Vethamuthu
Nepal	Utsab Oli

New Zealand	Stefan Ivanov
Nigeria	Chizitere Uche
Poland	Milena Malcharek
Romania	Anca Mihaela Vasilica
Singapore	Isaac Chan Xu Rui
Ukraine	Anastasiia Tsymbaliuk
United Arab Emirates	Kartik Goyal
United States	Sojas Wagle

Judges included Dr. Ingrid Tulloch from Stevenson University, Dr. Paul Aravich from Eastern Virginia Medical School, and Dr. Scott Moffat from Georgia Institute of Technology. Co-Coordinators included Dr. Mike Gavini; Ricky Lim and Angela Choi from the University of Maryland; Soren Christensen from Thomas Jefferson High School; and Alexander Skvortsoy and Nicholas Chrapliwy of the International Youth Neuroscience Association. Additional sponsors included the American Society for Neurochemistry and the Society for Neuroscience.

Next year, the World Brain Bee Championship will be in **Berlin, Germany** hosted by the **Federation of European Neuroscience Societies**. Dr. Myslinski encourages leaders around the world to start a Brain Bee competition in their cities. It is easy and fun and the media loves it.

For more information contact one of the following:

Patricia Fanning, Sr. Media Relations Specialist; 410-706-7946; 443-615-5811 (cell); pfanning@umaryland.edu

Holly Selby, Media Relations Specialist; 410-706-7554; 410-804-2497 (cell); hselby@umaryland.edu

Norbert Myslinski, Founder and World Director; 410-274-4998 (Cell); nmyslinski@umaryland.edu

OR your Regional (National) Coordinator listed below.

Official List of The Brain Bee Regional Coordinator's E-mails

Prepared by Dr. Norbert Myslinski, Founder and World-Wide Coordinator

July 1, 2017


#	Region	Coordinator	E-mail
1	Argentina	Cecilia Bouzat	inbouzat@criba.edu.ar
2	Australia	Ramesh Rajan	ramesh.rajan@monash.edu
3	Bangladesh	Muhammad Shahdaat Bin Sayeed	shahdaat.du.001@gmail.com
4	Belgium	Julie Maetens	jmaetens@ulb.ac.be

5	Brazil	Alfred Sholl-Franco	asholl@ biof.ufrj.br
6	Cameroon	Elisabeth Ngo Bum	eli_bum@yahoo.fr
7	Canada	Judy Shedden	shedden@mcmaster.ca
8	China	Jiangjie (Jason) Yu	yjiangjie@gmail.com
9	Costa Rica	Georgina Grillo	grillogeorgina@gmail.com
10	Czech Republic	Tomas Hromadka	tomas.hromadka@gmail.com
11	Denmark	Nynne Afzelius	nynne@sciencetalenter.dk
12	Ecuador	Carlos Huerta	carloshuerta@gmail.com
13	Egypt	Moataz Ibrahim Assem	alexneurocom@gmail.com
14	England	Martyna Petrulyté	m.petrulyte.14@aberdeen.ac.uk
15	France	Helen Sahin Connelly	giftedinfrance@gmail.com
16	Germany	Ina Simeonova	simeonova@management.dno-ev.de
18	Grenada	Gail Blackette	gail.blackette@yahoo.com
19	Hong Kong	Stephanie Auyeung	Stephanie.Auyeung@ inet.polyu.edu.hk
20	India	RMV Ravindranadh R V	ravirmv@gmail.com
21	Iran	Abbas Haghparast	Haghparast@ sbmu.ac.ir
22	Ireland	John Kelly	john.kelly@nuigalway.ie
23	Israel	Illana Gozes	igozes@post.tau.ac.il
24	Italy	P. Paolo Battaglini	battagli@units.it
25	Japan	Tetsu Okumura	tetsuok-tmdu@ umin.ac.jp
26	Jordan	Raeda Tamimi	raedatamimi@ yahoo.com
27	Kenya	Meggie Mwoka	meggiemwokz@gmail.com
28	Korea South	Seong-Whan Lee	sw.lee@korea.ac.kr
29	Lithuania	Paulius Alaburda	alaburdapaulius@gmail.com
30	Macau	Thomas Lao	thomaslao@ gmail.com
31	Macedonia	Elena Grncharevska	e.grncharevska@gmail.com
32	Malaysia	Jafri Malin Abdullah;	brainsciences@ gmail.com
33	Mexico	Eric Murillo-Rodriguez	eric.murillo@anahuac.mx
34	Nepal	Sarun Koirala	poksun@rediffmail.com

3 5	New Zealand	Maurice Curtis	m.curtis@auckland.ac.nz
3 6	Nigeria	Polycarp Nwoha	polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com
3 7	Philippines	Homer Villa	Homer.villa@yahoo.com
3 8	Poland	Elzbieta Malgorzata Pyza	elzbieta.pyza@uj.edu.pl
3 9	Portugal	Cláudia Cavadas	ccavadas@gmail.com
4 0	Spain	Joyse Medeiros	joysemedeiros.ufrn@gmail.com
4 1	Qatar	Ghina Mostapha Taouk	gt1106590@qu.edu.qa
4 2	Romania	Cristian Gurzu	cristian.gurzu@yahoo.com
4 3	Russia	Anna Volnova	anna_neuro@yahoo.com
4 4	Saudi Arabia	Rasheed Alameer	alameer.rasheed@gmail.com
4 5	Scotland	Janice Barr	janice.barr@roslin.ed.ac.uk
4 6	Sierra Leone	Farmanga Ngobeh	farmanga@aol.com
4 7	Singapore	S Thameen Dheen	thameem_dheen@nuhs.edu.sg
4 8	South Africa	Ernest Mahlaba	ernest.tumelo@yahoo.com
4 9	Slovakia	Tomas Hromadka	tomas.hromadka@gmail.com
5 1	Tanzania	Rashid Moussa	chldy98@yahoo.com
5 2	Turkey	Ferhan Esen	fesen@ogu.edu.tr
5 4	Ukraine	Andrii Cherninskyi	blacknick@blacknick.info
5 5	United Arab Emirates	Sathy Parvathy	sathyparvathy@gmail.com
5 6	United States	Norbert Myslinski	nmyslinski@umaryland.edu
5 7	Venezuela	Gladys Maestre	gladysmaestre@gmail.com
5 8	Wales	Vanessa Davies	daviesvj@Cardiff.ac.uk

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The Brain Bee Builds Better Brains to Fight Brain Disorders

IBB 2017 Congratulation letters

Thank you for your press release. Congratulations on a successful competition.

Best,
Eileen

Eileen Curran
Senior Director, Communications and Public Relations
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
733 Third Ave, Third Floor
New York, NY 10017
mobile +1 617-719-3202
email + eileen.curran@nmss.org



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Norbert,

Thank you for your email.

I did forward this email to our Communications team and they were able to post this to twitter:

<https://twitter.com/OHBM/status/895336072657293312>

Best,

Jae Gullings
Administrative & Meeting Coordinator

Organization for Human Brain Mapping

5841 Cedar Lake Road, Suite 204

Minneapolis, MN 55416

(952) 646-2034 – direct (952) 545-6073 - fax

www.humanbrainmapping.org

Dr. Myslinski –

It's Giovanni Albanese Jr. from India-West. I sent you an email earlier in the week and wanted to follow up with you about the 2017 International Brain Bee. The event concluded last weekend. Is there a corresponding press release with a photo so we can share the news of the winner?

Please advise. I'm on deadline and would like to get this in before the story gets too old.

Thanks for your help.

Giovanni Albanese Jr., Reporter

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Tel.: (510) 383-1142 Fax.: (510) 383-1155 933 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577, U.S.A.

Thanks for sending me the results of the World Brain Bee :). It looks like it was astonishingly amazing!!!! I loved this quote:

"Ukraine:

The Brain Bee showed me the magnificence and importance of neuroscience. It connected me with international people with the same interests as me, like neurons connect with each other."

On another topic...

Lost my cell phone somewhere in my house when I was getting ready to leave for work this AM. Puzzling.

I retraced my steps a hundred, thousand, million times and no phone.

So I will just come over after work and if you are not there yet, I will wait for you.

I estimate the time will be between 5 and 6 PM.

Can't wait to see you again!
Amy

--

Amy Bopp, Sign Language Program Coordinator

Amy's Desk Videophone: 443-955-5544

abopp@hasa.org

www.hasa.org