



These are the winners of the Special Awards from the Winnipeg Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience given to students at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium in April 2009.



These certificates and cash prizes are awarded to projects that relate to the nervous system, environmental studies, or disease related. Any work on behavioral diseases such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, or the effects of trauma on brain function are encouraged.

First Prize

Michael Teichman - Grade 10 - "DLX transcription factors and regulation of neuronal migration during brain development."

Summary - DLX2 regulated the expression level of the retinoblastoma gene (Rb protein) and that loss of DLX2 caused an increase in Rb protein level that may impair neuronal migration.

Second Prize

Christopher Rampersad - Grade 8 - "Effects of auditory stimuli on cognitive performance."

Summary - studied the effects of different music types on an array of cognitively based techniques. He was able to discuss different regions of the brain that deal with musical input. He set up a complex questionnaire that investigated a range of cognitive tasks - from low to high level functioning - then exposed 8 individuals to music ranging from opera to rap. Found that opera and classical music were more supportive of higher cognitive function - rap and techno were the worse.

Third Prize

Juliana Perez - Grade 6 - "Sleep on it!"

Summary - explained in some detail brain activity during sleep. She tested a large number of children for their level of wakefulness and performance in the morning following sleep. She found that recommended levels of sleep for boys were probably not sufficient.