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Biotechnology students demonstrate their entrepreneurial abilities

http://www.fstelight.cn 2007-05-29

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[摘要] 29 May 2007. A method for storing brain tissue for use by neuroscientists, a crime scene kit to identify the source of cells found on scene and a new drug for treating stomach ulcers are the winning entries of a student biotechnology business idea competition.

[关键词] brain tissue;cell

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A method for storing brain tissue for use by neuroscientists, a crime scene kit to identify the source of cells found on scene and a new drug for treating stomach ulcers are the winning entries of a student biotechnology business idea competition.

The I-

Volve competition, organised by The University of Auckland's Chiasma initiative, encourages students to develop their biotechnology ideas into a product/ service for commercialisation, to be judged by scientific and commercial experts. From a total prize pool worth over $7000, the joint winners this year, who receive $3000 each plus an additional $2000 awarded by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the prize -

giving ceremony, were Jinny Yoon and Claire French, both studying for a PhD in anatomy. The winners also received prizes sponsored by NZBio including annual memberships, conference and networking dinner attendance.

Jinny Yoon put forward an innovation centred on a method for storage of adult brain tissue that would allow ongoing analysis of cell response to external stimuli, such as drugs or other chemicals. Jinny's has developed a method of keeping these cells as close to their natural state as possible for use in neuroscience, something currently not available.

For forensic scientists, identification of the source of human cells at a crime scene is next to impossible. Claire French has developed a laboratory test that distinguishes between skin, mouth and vaginal cells, which is of great interest to forensic scientists. Her I

-Volve entry proposes to develop this science into a commercial kit that could be used for crime scene analysis.

The third prize of $500 was awarded to Naeem Amiry and Severine Brunet-

Durand, PhD students at the Liggins Institute, for their proposal to develop a drug that stops the Helicobacter pylori bacteria from infecting cells and causing stomach ulcers, rather than treating the infection once it has established. Fourth prize was awarded to Jessica Rodrigues (BTech student) for a proposed milk product to meet the needs of Vitamin A deficient populations.

"We had a tremendous response for I-

Volve '07 with 35 students entering the competition," says Chiasma CEO Graeme Fielder, a PhD student at the Liggins Institute. "It's great to see so many of them looking at the commercial side of biotechnology and exploring entrepreneurship. This has resulted in the competition consistently churning out new biotech ideas every year. We congratulate all the students that have entered and encourage them to develop their i

The I-

Volve challenge was judged by Professors Peter Hunter, Peter Shepherd, Associate Professor Louise Nicholson, Dr Kerry Loomes and Geoff Whitcher from the University, with external experts Dr Claire McGowan, CEO of Biopolymer Network Ltd, and Joe Rouse of Pioneer Capital Partners.

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