



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Students Headed to International Competition in Science & Engineering

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Three high school students from the Sacramento region will be showcasing their scientific chops on the international stage after winning Grand Prize Awards at the Synopsys Sacramento Regional Science & Engineering Fair on March 22.

Isfar Munir, a senior at Tracy High School, won First Place in the Grand Prize category for his project titled “The Effects of Temperature on the Deflection of an Electric Arc Generated by a Tesla Coil.” The project researched what effects relative humidity and air temperature have on the path of an electric arc.

Placing second overall was **Prem Talwai**, a junior at Mira Loma High School in Sacramento. Talwai’s project is titled “An Investigation of the p53 Ubiquitin-Proteasom System Using a Novel Non-Steady-State Enzyme Kinetic Model”. The project derived a mathematical model that enables pharmacologists to identify treatment solutions for certain cancers and neurodegenerative diseases.

Rounding out the top three finishers was **Dhruba Biswas**, a senior at Mira Loma High School in Sacramento. Her project, “Differentiation of Hepatocytes from Human Embryonic Stem Cells Cultured under Zeno-Free and Feeder Free Conditions”, researched the use of human stem cells to generate adult liver cells to treat liver disease.

All three will now go on to compete at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair to be held May 11-16 in Los Angeles. Historically, Sacramento’s Grand Prize winners have placed very well at the international level.

“We’re thrilled to see these students go on to represent the Sacramento region at the international level,” said Fair Director Michele Hastie. “Our students’ performances continue to prove that the Synopsys Sacramento Regional Science & Engineering Fair produces some of the top young talent in the state.”

Overall, hundreds of students participated in the annual Synopsys Sacramento Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Projects covered a range of topics working to solve problems and make discoveries in areas of science, engineering, medicine and transportation.

First place winners from each category in the middle school and high school division are now qualified to compete at the California State Science Fair.

A complete list of winners has been posted online at www.sacSTEMfair.org.

Photos and interviews with our winners are available upon request.

The Fair is a partnership of the Sacramento Regional Science & Engineering Fair Foundation (SRSEFF) and the Synopsys Outreach Foundation with additional funding from Intel, the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG), the California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), Aerojet, and many others.

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