



# NEWS RELEASE

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Academy To Honor Connecticut's Top Student Scientists *Young Scientists and Engineers Take Spotlight at Annual Awards Dinner*

**Hartford, CT** — Connecticut's most talented young scientists and engineers will be honored by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering at its 35th Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on May 20, 2010 at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, preceded by a reception at the Connecticut Science Center. Winners of this year's Connecticut Science Fair, Connecticut Science Challenge, Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, and Connecticut Invention Convention will be recognized during the evening ceremonies.

The H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence, established by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering and presented in partnership with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, will be awarded to the two first place winners of the Connecticut Science Fair and the first place winner of the Connecticut Science Challenge. The medal was created to recognize and honor H. Joseph Gerber's (1924-1996) technical leadership in inventing, developing and commercializing manufacturing automation systems for a wide variety of industries, making those industries more efficient and cost-effective in a worldwide competitive environment.

Academy member Thomas A. Steitz, co-winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, will give the keynote address. Steitz is Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at Yale University.

Student winners to be honored include:

### *The H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence:*

**Amoolya Narayanan, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, CT**

2010 Connecticut Science Fair – 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Life Sciences-Senior Division

Project: *Effect of Trans-cinnamaldehyde on Reducing Attachment and Invasion of Uropathogenic Escherichia coli in Urinary Epithelial Cells*

**William C. Newberry, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT**

2010 Connecticut Science Fair – 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Physical Sciences-Senior Division

Project: *Diatom-CdS Nanostructures as a Method to Enhance the Efficiency of a Dye-Sensitized Solar Cell*

**Jason A. Gandelman, Staples High School, Westport, CT**

2010 Connecticut Science Challenge – 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Project: *Bioinformatic and Synthetic Approaches to Studying Advanced Glycation End-products in Eukaryotes*

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**2010 Connecticut Science Challenge****1<sup>st</sup> Place – See H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence award winner****2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jenny Lu, Pomperaug High School, Southbury, CT***Project: Determination of the Relationship between Retina-cognin and N-cadherin in the Characterization of a Disulfide-dependent Cell Adhesion Complex***Honorable Mention: William C. Newberry, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT***Project: Laser Induced Microfluidic Motion of a Liquid-Liquid Interface***2010 Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium****1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jenny Liu, Amity Regional High School, Woodbridge, CT***Project: Emotional Models Promote Human-Robot Interaction***2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Neeharika Krothapalli, Farmington High School, Farmington, CT***Project: Characterization of *Jatropha curcas* Oil and Glycerol for Biofuel Production***3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Amoolya Narayanan, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, CT***Project: Effect of Trans-cinnamaldehyde on Reducing Attachment and Invasion of Uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* in Urinary Epithelial Cells***4<sup>th</sup> Place: Kousanee Chheda, Edwin O. Smith High School, Storrs Mansfield, CT***Project: Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HBOT) Induces Cytoprotection and Angiogenesis in Human Microvascular Endothelial Cells (HMEC-1)***5<sup>th</sup> Place: Caroline W. Bazinet, Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT***Project: Effects of PMCA2 Overexpression on Induction of Apoptosis by Docetaxel and Methotrexate in T47D Cells***2010 Connecticut Invention Convention****Bridgeport, CT – St. Ann School: Dominika Baginska and Jack Seperack****Torrington, CT – Torrington Middle School: Richard Bakula, Taryn Canfield, Mitchell Canty, Shannon O'Connor, Whitney Quarles, Molly Serven and Brittany Young****East Hartford, CT – Two Rivers Magnet Middle School: Jordon Alexandre****Fairfield, CT – Assumption School: Kathleen Gardella****Moodus, CT – Nathan Hale Ray Middle School: Caley Luna Millen****Hartford, CT – Independent Study Entrant: Cole Reavill****Westport, CT – Coleytown Middle School: Alec Solder****Avon, CT – Talcott Mountain Academy: Benjamin Suski**

Twenty-eight newly elected members of the Academy will also be recognized during the evening.

*The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering was chartered by the General Assembly in 1976 to provide expert guidance on science and technology to the people and to the state of Connecticut, and to promote the application of science and technology to human welfare and economic well being. For more information about the Academy, please see [www.ctcase.org](http://www.ctcase.org).*

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