



# Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair

## Quinnipiac University

March 2 - 14, 2026

These judging results are unaudited by the fair's Database Committee. The CSEF reserves the right to correct the listings.

### Final Judging Results

**Award Legend**  
 Plaque Winners = 1, 2, ...  
 Medalists = m  
 Winners = w

## Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]  
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

### Middle School

**Wilton** Middlebrook School Jessica Garcia

5514 P8 Treat Them Proteins! Using Technology to Help Damaged Enzymes

**Award** 1 **Student(s)** Tanush Nareddy **Grade** 8 **Town** Wilton

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- Finalist - Physical Sciences 8th Grade - CSF Medallion
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 1st Place Middle School - \$300, Trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 8th grade - CSF Medallion

**Greenwich** Central Middle School Andrew Bramante

2508 L8 Investigating the Inclusion of Hair Extracted Keratin Nanostructures for Increased Strength and Flexibility for the Construction of an Artificial Anterior Cruciate Ligament

**Award** 2 **Student(s)** Juliette Prezioso **Grade** 8 **Town** Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 3rd Place- Life Sciences 8th grade- \$100 & trophy
- \* Petit Family Foundation Women in Science & Engineering Awards --- 2nd Place- Middle School- \$150 / trophy
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 2nd Place Middle School - \$200, Trophy
- \* Pepsico Engineering Awards --- 2nd Place- Engineering MS- \$150 & trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 4th Place Biotechnology 8th grade- trophy

**North Haven** Slate School Jennifer Staple-Clark

2514 L8 A Microbiology Study of Ancient and Modern Flours: Comparing Microbial and Chemical Changes in Leavening Systems

**Award** 3 **Student(s)** Pierson Clark **Grade** 8 **Town** North Haven

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 2nd Place- Life Sciences 8th grade- \$200 & trophy
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 3rd Place Middle School - \$100, Trophy

**Salisbury** Indian Mountain School Marissa Teator

1014 LT The Dividing Line of Language: A Computational Model and Cross-Cultural Analysis of How Linguistic Labels Reshape "Chaotic" Perception

**Award** m **Student(s)** Kelly Chen **Grade** 7 **Town** Lakeville  
 Xinyue Zhang **Grade** 7 **Town** Lakeville

- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion



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### High School

**Bethel** Bethel High School Ray Turek

3534 LST Wavelet-Based Multiscale Anisotropy-Aware Cell-Cell Communication Inference and Niche Segmentation

**Award** 1 **Student(s)** Shravya Mankala **Grade** 11 **Town** Bethel  
Scarlett Chen **Grade** 11 **Town** Scarsdale  
Jiayu Su **Grade** 10 **Town** Ridgefield

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 3rd Place - Life Sciences Senior High Team - Plaque
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 1st Place High School - \$500, Plaque

**West Hartford** Kingswood Oxford Ashkan Novin

3178 LS A Multi-Modal AI/ML Platform for Neurodegenerative Risk Prediction: Integrating Epigenetic Signatures through cfDNA Methylation and Functional Mobility Data

**Award** 2 **Student(s)** Rhea Doshi **Grade** 10 **Town** Farmington

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 1st Place- Life Sciences Senior High- \$500 & Plaque
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 2nd Place High School - \$300, Plaque
- \* H. Joseph Gerber Award of Excellence presented by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering --- Life Sciences Senior 1st HS- \$1,000, Solid Silver Medal of Excellence, Invite to CASE Annual Mtg
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 1st Place Biotechnology Senior High - \$500 & plaque

**Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3094 LS Determining how prevalence of single nucleotide polymorphisms alters HLA molecule's expression, and dictates Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis' best treatments in specific populations

**Award** 3 **Student(s)** Tessa Addeo **Grade** 10 **Town** Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- Finalist - Life Science Senior High - CSF Medallion
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 3rd Place High School - \$200, Plaque
- \* Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75 gift card given by ONR
- \* Otero Family Award --- The Otero Family Award; \$250 cash

**Avon** Avon High School John Salerni

3119 LS Hyper-Activated Interferon Pathways in Asthmatic B Cells Contribute to Exaggerated Immune Response

**Award** m **Student(s)** Aarika Bhawe **Grade** 11 **Town** Avon

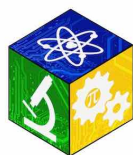
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

**Bethel** Bethel High School Ray Turek

6029 PS A Multiscale Evolutionary Simulation and Machine Learning Framework to Predict Immunotherapy Failure from Tumor-Immune Interaction Dynamics

**Award** m **Student(s)** Srirama Desiraju **Grade** 12 **Town** Bethel

- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion



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**Darien** Darien High School Ayman Reffai  
 [3169] [LS] Explanatory machine learning modeling of a seven-molecular marker panel for immune checkpoint inhibition response per RECIST v1.1 in metastatic urothelial carcinoma  
**Award** [m] **Student(s)** Matthew Li **Grade** 12 **Town** Darien  
 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

**Glastonbury** Glastonbury High School Stephen Falcigno  
 [3161] [LS] Experimental Validation of Computational Tools for Nanobody Affinity Maturation  
**Award** [m] **Student(s)** Anya Srivastava **Grade** 11 **Town** Glastonbury  
 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

**Greenwich** Brunswick School Dana Montanez  
 [3536] [LST] Biochar as a Bioremediation Method to Control Microplastic Effects on Agricultural Crops  
**Award** [m] **Student(s)** Giancarlo Cuesta **Grade** 10 **Town** Stamford  
 Quinn Cunningham **Grade** 10 **Town** Greenwich  
 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion  
 \* Earth Forward Group, LLC --- 2nd Prize for Sustainable, Agriculture and Food Systems \$150 cash

**Montville** Saint Thomas More School Yajamana Ramu  
 [3129] [LS] Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture: Decoding PP2C Gene Functions for Abiotic Stress Resilience in Maize  
**Award** [m] **Student(s)** Ami Rastogi **Grade** 11 **Town** Monroe Township  
 \* Petit Family Foundation Women in Science & Engineering Awards --- High School Finalist - Medallion  
 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion  
 \* Stanley Black & Decker Applied Technology Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion  
 \* Marty Putnam Foundation Awards --- Top Project in Cell or Gene Therapy or Immunology, 2nd Place \$200

**New Haven** Hopkins School Viktoriia Kolesnyk  
 [3097] [LS] Understanding Uterus Wound Healing and Tissue Remodeling: The Role of Fibroblast Growth Factor 2  
**Award** [m] **Student(s)** Derin Bahtiyar **Grade** 11 **Town** New Haven  
 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

**Stamford** King School Victoria Schulman  
 [3146] [LS] Effects of Dietary Sugars on Bone Mass and Mechanical Strength  
**Award** [m] **Student(s)** Max Marti **Grade** 11 **Town** New Canaan  
 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion



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**Watertown** The Taft School Amanda Benedict  
 3521 LST Finding a New Class of Inhibitors for IL-1 $\beta$  (interleukin-1 beta) Towards the Cure of Age Related Macular Degeneration  
 Award m Student(s) Jonathan So Grade 11 Town Watertown  
 Jamie Ho Grade 11 Town Lawrence Township

\* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 2nd Place- Life Sciences Senior High Team- \$300 (split) & Plaque  
 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

**West Haven** Notre Dame High School Omar Espinosa  
 3107 LS Decoding Adhesion Proteins: Computational Insights for Smarter Brain-on-a-Chip Interfaces  
 Award m Student(s) Siddarth Kothandam Grade 11 Town Hamden

\* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

**Westport** Staples High School Amy Parent  
 3013 LS The Mechanisms Underlying the Mitigating Effects of Vitamin D Supplementation on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in C. elegans  
 Award m Student(s) Nolan Francis Grade 12 Town Westport

\* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

**Woodbridge** Amity Regional High School Lindsay McCarthy  
 3127 LS Investigating the Impact of BRCA1/2 Co-Expression Gene Silencing on Chemotherapy Efficacy in Ovarian Cancer  
 Award m Student(s) Charlotte Stannard Grade 12 Town Bethany

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 \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion