

*The Laureates of Tomorrow*  
**NOBEL ESSAY CONTEST™**

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**CONTEST PARTNERS**

Consulate General of Sweden in New York, The New York Academy of Sciences,  
Nobelprize.org – the official website of the Nobel Foundation

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

New York City Department of Education, The City University of New York

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**NEW YORK CITY (June 5, 2006)** -- On behalf of the partners and collaborators of The Laureates of Tomorrow – NOBEL ESSAY CONTEST, Ambassador Ulf Hjertsonsson, Consul General of Sweden in New York, today announced the contest winners at a ceremony held at the Nobel Monument, Theodore Roosevelt Park (Columbus Avenue at 81<sup>st</sup> Street)

The winners, all New York City high school juniors, are:

**Physics**

Mingzhu Li

High School of American Studies at Lehman College, The Bronx

Essay title: *Niels Bohr and His Model of the Atom*

**Chemistry**

Melanie Plaza

Bronx High School of Science, The Bronx

Essay title: *Linus Pauling: Changing Chemistry and the World*

**Physiology/medicine**

William Rifkin

Horace Mann School, The Bronx

Essay title: *Andrew Fire and the Discovery of RNA Interference Silence is Golden*

“Not only is the Nobel monument a symbol of the close ties between Sweden and this great city of New York, but it also serves as an inspiration for the students participating in this essay contest. In the Consulate General we will not be at all surprised if we, in 30 or 40 years time, will see these students’ names inscribed onto this monument” Ambassador Hjertsonsson, said in congratulating the three winners.

The grand prize awarded the three winners is an all-expenses paid trip to Stockholm, Sweden to attend the Nobel Week Festivities in December. Mingzhu Li, thrilled about the upcoming trip said “I have always dreamed of attending the Nobel Banquet. Winning this prize is a dream come true to me. I am excited that I'm actually going to meet the Nobel Laureates in person, and am looking forward to visiting the beautiful city of Stockholm”.

The competition, open to all juniors in NYC public, private, and parochial schools, required students to write essays examining the impact on science and society of major scientific achievements by Nobel Prize winners in physics, chemistry or physiology/medicine. 35 finalists had to defend their essays before a panel of distinguished scientists.

The contest is presented by a partnership between the Consulate General of Sweden, The New York Academy of Sciences and Nobelprize.org – the official website of the Nobel Foundation, working in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education, and The City University of New York.

**For more details regarding The Laureates of Tomorrow – Nobel Essay Contest:**  
[www.laureatesoftomorrow.org](http://www.laureatesoftomorrow.org)

**For more information about the Nobel Monument:**  
[www.nobelmonument.com](http://www.nobelmonument.com)

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