

FOR RELEASE**Winnipeg's Justin Lin wins Youth Can Innovate cash, Gold medal for ALS research at Canada-Wide Science Fair**

REGINA, SK (Friday May 19, 2017) – Justin Lin, 18-year-old Grade 12 student from St. John's - Ravenscourt School in Winnipeg won a top inaugural *Youth Can Innovate* cash award of \$8,000 to complement his Gold medal for his current science project at the 56th Canada Wide Science Fair, held this year on the University of Regina campus.

The *Youth Can Innovate* Awards are sponsored by the Calgary-based Gwyn Morgan & Patricia Trottier Foundation. "One of the key goals of our Foundation is to encourage and support Canadian students in STEM," said Gwyn Morgan in announcing winners of the 2017 Awards. "We want to champion Canada's young innovators and shine a light on their work by encouraging them and providing financial support. They're Canada's future," said Patricia Trottier. More than 440 STEM students from schools across Canada presented 390 projects.

Lin, no stranger to national science competitions, has a career interest in medicine or research. After two years of cardiovascular research projects, Lin opted to work through a neuroscience lab on a new strategy to target ALS, a devastating neurodegenerative disease that typically results in death 3-5 years after diagnosis. Currently there is no cure or definitive diagnostic test.

Lin's project investigated two novel techniques – one was to demonstrate the potential of a technique (known as an ELISA) that he modified as a diagnostic tool and the second to develop a possible method to selectively eliminate mutant proteins that can cause ALS, effectively preventing or stopping further progression of the disease.

"My results are very promising and my lab is now testing the peptide-based treatment on ALS mouse models," said Lin. Aside from his research work, Lin makes time for sports, playing the piano, engaging in debate, and volunteering with various organizations, especially tutoring peers. Lin is passionate about applying his research to serve the betterment of ALS patient care.

Youth Can Innovate Awards, with a total cash value of \$41,000, are offered to students competing at Canada's annual national science fair. This year, 242 finalists at the junior, intermediate and senior levels nominated their projects for evaluation. The 2017 recipients were selected by Canada-Wide Science Fair judges. More information about *Youth Can Innovate* and profiles of 2017 recipients, can be found at Facebook/YouthCanInnovate, Twitter: @youthcaninnovate, and www.youthcaninnovate.ca.

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For media information, photos, and to interview winners: Rosemarie Enslin (403) 630-8421, enslin@enslinpr.com, @RosemariePRyyt

About The Gwyn Morgan & Patricia Trottier Foundation: The Gwyn Morgan & Patricia Trottier Foundation is a family foundation based in Calgary, Alberta. Established in 2005, it focuses on education, wellness initiatives and leadership development. In education, the Foundation gives priority to initiatives that encourage and support students pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers. The Foundation's STEM support currently includes 20 recently established *Youth Can Innovate* Awards, which are given annually to 16 innovative projects at the Canada-Wide Science Fair; Camosun College's Empowering Women In Trades Program; the Gwyn Morgan **Be An Engineer** bursaries awarded annually at 15 Canadian universities and the Gwyn Morgan Centennial Bursary.