



Davidson Fellow Laureate

Milana Zaurova

(\$50,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Milana Zaurova

Age: 17

Fresh Meadows, New York

School, College and Career Plans

Having graduated from the Bronx High School of Science as valedictorian, Milana is ready to attend Princeton University. She plans to major in pre-medicine with concentrations in neuroscience and Spanish. She plans to attend medical school after earning her Bachelor's degree.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Science: Medicine*)

In her project titled "Gene Therapy Meets Chemotherapy: Exposure of Malignant Glioma Cells to Transgenic Embryonic Stem Cells and Temozolomide," Milana researched the deadliest form of brain cancer, malignant glioma, which is the most invasive and recurrent type of adult brain tumor with no viable treatment options. With a creative, multi-disciplinary approach blending chemotherapy and gene therapy, two areas of neuro-oncology, Milana studied transgenic mouse embryonic stem cells in combination with a chemotherapy drug as an effective method to fight brain cancer. Her method shows promise as a new treatment that can help save lives.

Biography

Milana was born in the former Soviet Union and emigrated to America when she was 3 years old. Milana credits her mother, a professor of music theory in Russia who, once in America, re-educated herself in a completely different field, as her inspiration to pursue education as an integral and stimulating part of her life.

The embryonic stem cell research that Milana helped conduct at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City will continue to fuel her passion for science and medicine in the future. This project has inspired her to strive for the best even when the best seems unattainable. She feels that this work leaves her better prepared to keep contributing in the future as a doctor, a researcher, and a proactive member of her community.

Milana made her time at Bronx Science interesting by opening the first Latin and Ballroom Dance Club and using it to provide a source of recreation for her classmates. She enjoyed her role as an eager dance teacher and took the time to have fun and relax.

Please see next page.



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(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2005 Davidson Fellow Laureate
- 2005 "The Scholar" Finalist (ABC reality show)
- 2005 Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalist
- 2005 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, Third Place in Medicine and Health, First Place in AVASC Special Award
- 2005 NYC Science and Engineering Fair Finalist
- 2005 Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Semifinalist
- 2005 Otto P. Burgdorf Award in Biological Science and Medicine
- 2005, 2004, 2003 ARISTA National Honors Society
- 2004 Gold III Science, Technology and Business Studies Discover Card Tribute Award State Winner in Science
- 2004, Who's Who Among America's High School Students
- 2004 National Merit Qualifier
- 2004 Prudential Spirit of Community Certificate of Excellence
- 2004 AIDS Awareness Day Organizer and Participant

Community Activities

For the past two summers, Milana volunteered in the neurosurgery department at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Milana is fluent in Russian, English and Spanish and uses her knowledge of languages to help others. She has volunteered as a translator for non-English speaking patients at Arverne Dental Center.

Milana is the recipient of the Gold Award for Community Service from the President's Council.

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