

For Immediate Release  
May 23, 2011

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**Unique, Award-Winning Program Showcases Innovative Life Science Projects  
Including NEW Global Health Collaboration with Kenyan Students**  
[www.nwabr.org/studentbiotech](http://www.nwabr.org/studentbiotech)

The Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR) announces the 11<sup>th</sup> Student Bio Expo, the culminating event of an innovative year-long science education outreach program. The Expo engages over 300 area high school students from 22 schools in real-world applications of new frontiers in biology and builds connections between students, teachers, and scientists!

Our Student Bio Expo provides the Seattle-area with one of its few competitive high school science fairs. However, the Expo is not your usual science fair! It differs from regular fairs in two main ways. 1) Students develop projects with the assistance of a mentor scientist over the course of the school year. 2) Students can enter life-science themed projects in categories as diverse as art, music, drama, writing, and traditional scientific research. By applying their own talents to their projects, students are motivated to see the connection between science and their own lives and interests.

This year, we are excited to introduce a new Global Health collaboration with students in Kenya. The SEAVURIA (sea-vuh-REE-uh) project pairs students in the rural area of Vuria, Kenya with Seattle-area students and scientists. International teams of students collaborate on global health related research while being mentored by scientists from the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle University, and the University of Washington. Students in Kenya present their findings at the Kenyan Science Congress, while Seattle students present at the Student Bio Expo.

In our pilot year, we are impacting 80 students – half each from five Seattle-area schools and eight Vuria schools, engaging them in meaningful learning around topics of relevance to their lives. International teams of eight students each will be mentored by one or more scientists. Eight of the fifteen mentoring scientists in Seattle are also of Kenyan heritage. Using the power of the Internet, participating students will share their knowledge and perspectives with one another. Subjects of student research projects are of both global and local interest, including HIV, malaria, TB, water quality, women's health issues, and drug abuse. For example, a team choosing a topic of malaria might investigate how the disease impacts people in their community, or what types of research are being done in the local scientific community.



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| WHEN:   | Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2010            |
| WHERE:  | Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington |
| AGENDA: | 9:00-11:45 Student Presentations/Judging |
|         | 12:30-1:00 Special Performances          |
|         | 1:00-2:00 Awards Ceremony                |

**About the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR):** NWABR is a non-profit that promotes the understanding of biomedical research and its ethical conduct through education and dialogue.

**Participating high schools:** Ballard HS, Cleveland HS, Eastlake HS, Eastside Catholic HS, Garfield HS, Glacier Peak HS, Ingraham HS, Juanita HS, Mercer Island HS, Roosevelt HS, Royal HS, Shorecrest HS, Shorewood HS, St. Paul's Academy, Stanwood High School, Technology Access Foundation Academy, The Attic Learning Community, W.F. West HS, Woodinville High School

**Student participants who have agreed to speak to reporters:**

- A student who had Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and wrote a creative writing piece about her experiences (Garfield HS).
- A group of students who researched hookworm, went to Guatemala with shoes they had collected, and made a multimedia presentation (Cleveland HS).
- A pair of students who partnered with students in Kenya to develop a project and presentation about malaria. These students can explain the personal impact of communicating with partner students in Kenya, what they have learned about malaria in the process, and how we can combat the disease (Cleveland HS).

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