THE SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

SSP
www.summerscience.org

13 August 2019

Omar El-Kishky
19430 Sara Lane
Flint, TX 75762

Dear Omar,

Congratulations! Your faculty tell me that the determination, hard work, and enthusiasm of you and your colleagues at four programs made 2019 one of the best in our long history.

You've now joined an extended family of 2500+ members, ages 16 to 78, who are incredibly proud of what you have achieved. As you know by now, SSP didn't end when you returned home, it dispersed and enlarged to include everyone who ever attended or worked at this unique program.

Your future is bright, and you'll no doubt stay in contact with your colleagues as you move through life's milestones. Keep in touch with the larger community too, by participating in social media, sharing personal news and contact info, reading the *Universal Times* e-letter, and attending events and meetups. Then consider returning as a TA in 4-5 years.

We wish you much success and happiness, as you step into your future with the deeper self-knowledge and bigger dreams that you earned at the Summer Science Program. Your SSP family will celebrate your achievements, just as you will for those who come after you.

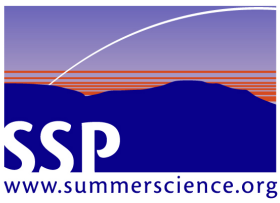
With warmest regards,

Michael A. Weiss

Dr. Michael A. Weiss SSP '74
Chair, Board of Trustees

Attachments

1. press release to be shared with local media and elected officials
2. letter of completion suitable for college and scholarship applications



Local Teen Designs New Fungicide to Protect Crops

For immediate release

Omar El-Kishky conducts research in Biochemistry at University of California

SAN DIEGO – Over 39 intense days this summer, Omar El-Kishky of Flint, a student at Tyler Lee (Robert E. Lee) High School, used wet lab techniques and modeling software to study an enzyme from a fungal pathogen, and to design a small molecule inhibitor to protect crops from that fungus.

El-Kishky participated in the Summer Science Program (SSP), joining 35 other top science students from around the world at University of California for academic challenge, collaboration, and personal growth. Since 1959, this unique and highly selective program has offered teenagers their first taste of hands-on, collaborative experimental research. Years and even decades later, alumni describe it as "the educational experience of a lifetime". Most go on to earn advanced degrees and leadership roles in their chosen careers.

El-Kishky and his colleagues worked closely with university professors, met prominent guest speakers, and took behind-the-scenes tours of local scientific and cultural sites.

SSP is operated by an independent non-profit, in cooperation with host campuses New Mexico Tech, University of Colorado Boulder, Purdue University, and University of California San Diego, and affiliates Caltech, MIT, and Harvey Mudd College. For complete information visit summerscience.org. <end>

Omar El-Kishky may be contacted at omarelk8@gmail.com

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that **Omar El-Kishky** of Flint, TX, a student at Tyler Lee (Robert E. Lee) High School, together with his two peer teammates, successfully completed a research project at the 2019 Summer Science Program at University of California. Omar used wet lab techniques and modeling software to study an enzyme from a fungal pathogen, and to design a small molecule inhibitor to protect crops from that fungus.

SSP is one of the oldest (since 1959) and most prestigious pre-college STEM research programs, and uniquely operated and funded by its own alumni. Omar was one of 144 admitted from a pool of over 1,300 applicants from around the world, all showing extraordinary aptitude and interest in STEM.

Notably, admissions decisions are made by volunteer program alumni, in a holistic, need-blind process. After an applicant is admitted, we meet all demonstrated need with financial aid grants.

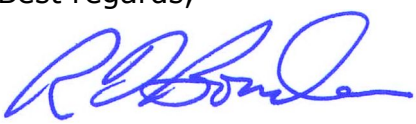
We immerse these talented students in a challenging, rigorous, diverse, supportive environment that requires collaboration and stimulates personal growth. Supported by fast-paced instruction from college professors in upperclass-undergrad level biochemistry and molecular modeling, and hands-on experience with research-grade equipment and software, they come to understand the joys, hard work, frustrations, and ambiguity of authentic scientific research. Each participant is engaged in research-related activities for at least 300 hours over the 39 days and nights.

As SSP is a non-credit enrichment program for highly motivated teenagers, learning is its own reward; there are no tests, grades, or written evaluations.

This intense experience inspires academically advanced teenagers in ways high schools cannot, preparing them to excel in college and beyond.

For more information, visit **summerscience.org** or contact me directly.

Best regards,



Richard D. Bowdon SSP '74
Executive Director, rbowdon@ssp.org

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