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## **Long Island Students Make A Mark At Prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search**

*Ward Melville Senior Takes Third In National Science Competition*

**Stony Brook, NY:** On March 15th, Society for Science announced the top forty finalists in the prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search. Included in these forty were seven seniors from highschools around Long Island, including a medalist.

Taking home third place and \$150,000 was Ward Melville High School senior and Stony Brook native Amber Luo, for her development of a software that could help researchers gain insight into the molecular pathways behind diseases. The software, called RiboBayes, uses statistical techniques on large amounts of sequencing data to discover ribosome pause sites. These sites are involved in protein synthesis and gene expression, but have been difficult for researchers to efficiently and accurately identify. Having information about the location of pause sites will allow researchers to study how those sites are modified by diseases and create more targeted treatments.



“It can pinpoint for researchers a pathway that is perturbed in cancers, or a protein that may be very important towards Alzheimer's cancer progression.”

Among the other six Long Island teens also in the top 40 of the competition is Hailee Youn of Roslyn, who was voted Seaborg Award Winner by her fellow finalists for exemplifying their class and spoke on behalf of the class. Hailee’s research involved analyzing the intent and responsibility people feel to vote based on awareness of the voting behavior of others and whether one holds a minority or majority political viewpoint,

The remaining finalists from Long Island are: Ethan Chiu, Syosset; Rohan Singh Ghotra, Woodbury; Roberto Antonio Lopez, Bayshore; Christopher Vincenzo Luisi, Bellmore; Desiree Rigaud, Bellmore.

**About Regeneron Science Talent Search:** Science Talent Search is the oldest and most prestigious research competition for high school students. Regeneron Pharmaceuticals is a biotechnology company committed to improving the lives of those with serious diseases through research with nine FDA-approved treatments and more in development.

**Sources:**

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