

Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Fair Association

P.O. Box 307, Los Altos, California 94023 • 650-856-1289

www.science-fair.org

Celebrating Consecutive Regional Science Fairs Since 1960

Affiliated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

MENTOR PROFILE FOR STUDENTS TO REVIEW

Please fill in the appropriate information boxes below, and email the completed document to mentors@science-fair.org for posting on our website www.science-fair.org.

Last name: Shankar

First name: Nikash

College and degree(s) earned: Washington University in St. Louis, NA

Current workplace: Washington University in St. Louis

Email address: please contact mentors@science-fair.org

Web page (if applicable):

Phone number and available hours to call: please contact mentors@science-fair.org

Your background summary: (Please limit to 200 words)

Over the past five years, I have conducted research in the field of Alzheimer's disease, exploring the pathological basis of the disease and the pharmacokinetics of drugs that have been shown to slow the progression or the onset of the disease. During these five years, I presented and shared my findings at fairs, such as Synopsis, Intel STS, and Siemens, and at conferences. As a research intern at UCSF's Gladstone Institutes of Neurological Diseases, I continued to investigate the origins of the disease. I plan to continue neurological research on Alzheimer's disease from both a psychological and neurological approach as an undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis.

Briefly write about your science and/or engineering interests:

Having worked at a dementia care center, I have been intrigued by the mind and how neurological diseases, particularly dementia, can affect it. This voluntary work is what primarily introduced me to the field of research and is what drives my desire to contribute to the search for the cause and cure of Alzheimer's disease, a type of dementia that currently affects millions of Americans and is projected to increase exponentially over the next few decades.

Projects from which scientific category (one or more) would you be interested in mentoring? Categories are explained in detail at

<http://synopsys.championship.googlepages.com/scientificcategoriesforprojects>.

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Behavioral/Social Sciences, Medicine/Health/Gerontology, Biochemistry/Microbiology

If you are a past Science Fair Judge, list scientific categories which you judged:

If you are a past Science Fair Judge, list fairs by name in which you participated (local school fair, Synopsys Championship, CSSF, ISEF, etc.)

GUIDELINES FOR MENTORS

As a mentor, you will fill out this mentor profile describing your background and interests. This information will be posted on our website and be available for students to review. The student will contact you when he/she identifies a potential fit between you and their project. The two of you will communicate and determine if the project is a good fit with your skills and interests. If there is mutual agreement, then please develop the mentor/mentee relationship. If you do not feel this project is a good fit, then tactfully inform the student that you and the project are not a good fit and encourage the student to find another mentor. Keep in mind your goal is to improve the existing project to the best it can be. You are not expected to convert the project into a 1st place entry.

This program is intended increase interaction between the professional community and local students. This program is not intended to be a forum for students to find jobs or internships.

Following are some mentor guidelines. Email additional questions or clarification requests to the fair manager.

- Under no circumstance should you meet face-to-face with your student mentee. Serious liability risks are incurred if this happens.
- We want to track the mentor activity. Please inform the fair manager when you are contacted by a student and also if you will continue being their mentor.
- If at any point you feel you have enough mentees, please contact the fair manager to change your availability on the website.
- We recommend accepting no more than three concurrent mentees.
- Please be an active mentor. For example, check that there is a correct hypothesis or engineering goal. BEWARE: Do not generate their project, but offer suggestions and ways to improve their presentation.
- Always offer encouragement and support.

Thank you for considering the position a project mentor. This is a wonderful way to give back to the community and positively impact today's youth.