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**TWO LAVAL HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS
SELECTED INTO NATIONAL GENE
RESEARCH PROGRAM**



Victoria, BC – March 2, 2010

While some students will be hitting the slopes or the beaches this spring break, a very lucky 29 Canadian students will be hitting the science labs of some of Canada's top human genetic researchers for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Local students, Karen Vo Hoang and Bhavithra Thaneswaran, have been selected for two of the coveted placements after submitting essays to the Canadian Gene Cure Foundation on why they wanted to be a Gene Researcher for a Week. Students were selected based on their interest in science, academic standing, and extracurricular community involvement.

Having two students from one area is unusual and from the same school is amazing! **Karen and Bhavithra** will be spending their spring break in a molecular oncology lab at **McGill Centre for Translational Research in Cancer (MCTRC)** with host scientists Dr. William Foulkes and Dr. Martin Coulliard.

"The Canadian Gene Cure Foundation has been placing Canada's brightest, young, up-and-coming scientists into top laboratories across the country for the past eight years. The 180 students who have participated in the programme have gone on to great success at their chosen universities. The excitement, inspiration and high level mentoring that comes as part of the Gene Researcher for a Week programme is helping to shape a bright future for Canadian science," said Sandra MacPherson, Board Chair for the Canadian Gene Cure Foundation. "I am continually impressed by both the quality of applications from the students and the dedication shown by our host scientists."

Background:

Canadian Gene Cure Foundation

The Canadian Gene Cure Foundation (CGCF) is a registered Canadian charitable organization, formed in 1998 to raise much-needed funds for medical genetics research in Canada.

The Foundation's primary goal is to raise funds to enable Canadian scientists to discover cures and treatments for genetic disorders. In addition to the annual research grants

awarded, the Foundation recognizes the importance of mentoring Canada's future scientists and hosts the annual Gene Researcher for a Week programme aimed at providing unique educational opportunities for high school students across the country. The Foundation also supports networking opportunities in which scientists can exchange ideas and work cooperatively, linking advances in different disease areas. Specifically, the CGCF supports the annual Canadian Human Genetics Conference in partnership with the CIHR Institute of Genetics.

www.genecure.ca

Gene Researcher for a Week The Canadian Gene Cure Foundation selects motivated and ambitious students in grades 11 and 12 who have an innate curiosity for science, human genetics, and human genetics research. These students are placed in labs of influential scientists for one week over Spring Break. This experience gives young students a once in a lifetime opportunity to work alongside premiere research scientists.

Students gain insight into the world of genetic diseases by conducting real, hands-on science experiments. Participants learn how genes cause human genetic disorders and how top scientists translate these findings into treatments and cures for genetic diseases. The Gene Researcher for a Week mentoring programme is a unique opportunity for young scientists to learn about human genetics research and connect with the scientific community.

Gene Researcher for a Week is made possible by funding from NSERC, CIHR Institute of Genetics and Merck.

For further information and to arrange interviews with the student and/or host scientist, please contact:

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