



INTERNATIONAL
DNA DAY
2015
April 25

What is the DNA DAY Essay Contest?

The structure of the DNA double helix was unraveled over sixty years ago! DNA Day, April 25, is now commemorated internationally as a celebration of Genetics and its promises. For the eighth year, the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG), with the American Society of Human Genetics will be sponsoring a DNA Day Essay contest to allow a better assessment of knowledge and perspectives on genetics among students from both continents. This year TSMU Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics and Georgian Society of Medical Genetics and Epigenetics will join on this initiative.

The essay contest intends to challenge students to examine, question and reflect on the importance and social implications of genetic research and its applications. Essays are expected to contain substantive, well-reasoned arguments indicative of a depth of understanding of the issues addressed by the selected essay question.

Questions 2015

Completed in 2003, the Human Genome Project (HGP; 1990-2003) was the international, collaborative research program coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Institutes of Health. Project goals were to identify all the approximately 20,500 genes in human DNA, determine the sequences of the 3 billion chemical base pairs that make up human DNA, store this information in databases. Though the HGP is finished, analyses of the data will continue for many years.

Explain how the data resulting from The Human Genome Project impacts development of medicine (diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention of diseases) and what negative and positive influences can modern genetic researches have on public life. Justify your answer in detail.

Prizes

First Place Winner 300 Lari

Second Place Winner 200 Lari

Third Place Winner 100 Lari

All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation for their participation in the contest.

Special Dates

March 31 Deadline for the submission to the TSMU Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics

April 24 Essay contest winners will be announced

Participants

Medical students from Georgian Universities may enter the contest.

Length

The essay is strictly limited to **750 words**. One optional figure or image can be included in the essay. Any figure legend will be included in the word count. A picture of the student should also be attached if possible.

Language

Please submit essays in **English**.

Deadline

All essays must be received no later than **March 31, 2015**.

Instructions for Submission

Please read the instructions carefully

Please note

All submissions will be handled by the rules of academic honesty, which includes screening for *plagiarism* (that is, quoting from other people's work without acknowledging that this is a quotation and giving the source). Essays containing *plagiarism* will be disqualified from the contest.

Respect usual citation rules.

Citations should be indicated by "double quotes" and referred to in the text either

- as a bracket with [Author, Title, Source, Year] or
- as a [number in brackets] with the references listed at the end of the essay or
- as ^{super}script with the references listed at the end of the essay.

Do also remember that

- you must not change the sense of the original by omitting content.
- if you make additions to a citation, indicate this by adding your initials: e.g. [addition; A.K.].

Most importantly

It will not be sufficient to submit an essay consisting mostly (or even partly) of citations. They may support your reasoning but cannot be the essence of the work. **It is essential that, while quoting your sources, the content needs to be written by you.**

1. Essay Format

- The text cannot exceed **750 words in English**.
- **Language of Submission is English.**
- It is allowed to upload **one relevant figure/image and one picture of the student** with the essay. The figure legend will be counted as part of the 750 words.
- All submissions will be handled by the rules of academic honesty, which includes screening for **plagiarism** (that is, quoting from other people's work without acknowledging that this is a quotation and giving the source). **Essays containing plagiarism will be disqualified from the contest.**

To avoid plagiarism you will have to show where your information came from and quote

- the **author** (name & initial)
- **source/name of the publication** (e.g. title of the article, journal, book website)
- the **year of publication**.

Please enter references in the according step during submission.

Where can I get support?

- For **support** during submission, please send an email to geoepigene@gmail.com describing your problem, or call 599298168

Useful links:

- Human Genome Project website:
- http://web.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/index.shtml
- <http://www.genome.gov/>
- Wellcome Trust/ Sanger Institute: www.yourgenome.org
- Genetic Alliance: A guide for patients and healthy professionals: www.geneticalliance.org/understanding.genetics
- National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH
<http://www.genome.gov/10506367>
<http://www.genome.gov/27541804>
- U.S. National Library of Medicine
<http://www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov/spotlight/dna-day-2012>