



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## USA National High School Neuroscience Championship Results

HERSHEY, Pa. (April 15, 2019) – Students from around the country met last month at **Penn State University College of Medicine** to compete in the twelfth annual **USA National BRAIN Bee** Championship. The USA Brain Bee is a competition about the human brain for students, 13 to 19 years of age. Its purpose is to motivate young men and women to learn about the human brain, apply that knowledge to their daily lives, and to inspire them to enter careers in the basic and clinical brain sciences where they can help treat and find cures for brain disorders. Winners from 56 Brain Bee Chapter competitions in 36 states came to test their knowledge of such topics as intelligence, emotions, memory, sleep, vision, hearing, sensations, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, schizophrenia, addictions and brain research. The competition involved anatomy, histology, radiology, and pathology of real human brains, and the diagnosis of patients with brain disorders.

After a challenging and exhausting two days of competition with a record number of competitors, the winner and 2019 USA Brain Bee Champion is **John Yang from Newark, New Jersey. Second place went to Julia Collin from Piscataway, New Jersey. Third place went to Claire Wang of Los Angeles, California.** See below for photo and the complete list of competitors and their order of finish. The USA Championship Coordinators from Penn State University College of Medicine were **Drs. Kala Venkiteswaran and Dr. Thyagarajan Subramanian.**

John will go on to represent the United States in the World Brain Bee Championship in Daegu, South Korea, competing against champions from 26 other countries. The World Championship will be held in conjunction with the International Brain Research Organization’s World Congress of Neuroscience. Previous World Championship venues were Germany, South Africa, Denmark, Australia, United States, Austria, Italy, and Canada. Previous host have been the American Psychological Association, The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies, The International Society for Neurochemistry, The World Congress of Psychology, The World Congress of Neurology, and the Canadian Neuroscience Society.



Traditionally, the USA Championship was hosted by the University of Maryland, Baltimore, during Brain Awareness Week. This is the first year that it was taken on the road. Every year, from now on, it will be in a different American city hosted by a different university.

### About the Brain Bee

The USA Brain Bee is an officially sanctioned Regional Brain Bee of the International Brain Bee. The Founder of the International Brain Bee and The National Director of the USA Brain Bee is **Dr. Norbert Myslinski, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, University of Maryland, Baltimore**. Most Chapter coordinators are neuroscientists at universities. Others are teachers and administrators from high schools, museums, and industry who are interested in science education and community outreach. Each of the 75 Chapters has a host and a major sponsor. Some of the hosts are **Penn State, Ohio State, Michigan State, and the Universities of Texas, Maine, Minnesota, Alabama, Iowa, Montana, Alaska, California, Vermont, as well as Tufts, Tulane, Stanford, Purdue, Morehead, Duke, Mercyhurst, Dartmouth, Rice and Brown Universities**. Some of the Sponsors are **The Society for Neuroscience, The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, The Mahoney Institute for Neurosciences, The Neurology Foundation, Buffalo Neurosurgery, United Community Bank, Business Finance Corporation, and the Anchorage Museum**. More than 100 newspapers, radio and television stations have covered the USA Brain Bee and the student competitors, and about 40 web sites are devoted to USA chapters. Many former competitors are now working in neuroscience, neurology, psychology, government and related fields. Currently around the world, there are about 200 Brain Bee Chapters in 50 countries in 6 continents. Dr. Myslinski founded the International Brain Bee twenty-one years ago and says "Its purpose is to motivate young students to learn about the human brain and inspire them to seek careers in the basic and clinical neurosciences to help treat and find cures for brain disorders. **We build better brains to fight brain disorders.**"



**Left to right**

**Julia Collin, Piscataway, New Jersey, Second Place**

**John Yang, Newark, New Jersey, First Place**

**Claire Wang, Los Angeles, California, Third Place**

**2019 USA Brain Bee Championship Order of Finish**

Alphabetical by state and city  
Note: BH = Bottom Half of Rankings



<b><u>Rank</u></b>	<b><u>St</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>USA Brain Bee Collaborator Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Competitor</u></b>
28	AK	Anchorage	University of Alaska Anchorage	Maggie Ludwig
BH	AL	Birmingham	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Bronwyn Blanks
8	AR	Little Rock	Arkansas SfN Chapter	Daye Kwon
BH	AZ	Glendale	Midwestern University	Latavya Chintada
BH	CA	Hayward	California State University East Bay	Tarun Suresh
16	CA	Irvine	University of California	Snehaa Ganesh Kumar
3	CA	Los Angeles	University of Southern California	Claire Wang
BH	CA	Sacramento	University of California,	Chinmayi Balusu
BH	CA	San Diego	Scripps Research Institute	Aditya Murali
BH	CT	Hartford	Trinity College	Arya Bairat
10	DC	Washington	Society for Neuroscience	Bhavya Boddu
20	FL	Gainesville	SfN Chapter and Univ of Florida	Jiawei Ma
18	FL	Miami	U of Miami and Miami SfN Chapter	Nicolas Jo
25	FL	Tallahassee	Florida State University	Tara M. Pattilachan
BH	FL	Orlando	University of Central Florida	Kaavya Shah
4	GA	Atlanta	Georgia State U., Ctr Beh Neurosci	Henry Shen
BH	IA	Iowa City	University of Iowa	Sujay Marisetty
BH	IL	Chicago	Lake Forest College	Shouri Bochetty
24	IN	Indianapolis	Indiana/Purdue University	Brian J. Zhang
BH	KS	Kansas City	Kansas City SfN Chapter	Kara Sargent
BH	LA	New Orleans	Tulane University	Olivia C. Miller
9	MA	Worcester	Brain Edu Ctr; BNRI Outreach, U of Mass	Petra Dujmic



BH	MD	Baltimore City	Community College of Baltimore County	Bryan Dong
BH	MD	Baltimore Co	Stevenson University "Overflow Site"	Danyah Imam
BH	MD	St Mary's City	St. Mary's College of Maryland	Christine Elizabeth Shatrowsky
BH	MI	East Lansing	Michigan State University	Finsam Samson
BH	MI	Mt Pleasant	SFN Chapter, Central Michigan U	Victoria Leiti.
6	MN	Minneapolis	University of Minnesota	Kimberly Shen
11	MO	St. Louis	Washington University	Rincon Jagarlamudi
15	NH	Hanover	Dartmouth/SfN Chapter	Sanjana Kunnikuru
BH	NJ	Egg Harbor	Stockton University	Arwa Muhamed
1	NJ	Newark	New Jersey Medical School	John Yang
2	NJ	Piscataway	Robert Woods Johnson Medical School	Julia Collin
BH	NM	Albuquerque	University of New Mexico	Antonio Dowdy
22	NV	Las Vegas	Nevada Brain Bee Association	Faria Tavecchi
BH	NY	Albany	Albany Medical Center; SUNY at Albany	Gianna Mamone
BH	NY	Buffalo	Canisius College	Claire Mullen
21	NY	Hempstead	Hofstra/Northwell School of Medicine	Breanna Huang-Ouyang
BH	NY	New York City	Dana Alliance Columbia University	Kelly Chan
BH	NY	Rensselaer	Albany School of Public Health	Jessica E. Beskid
BH	NY	Rochester	University of Rochester	Emily Han
12	NY	White Plains	Burke Rehabilitation Hospital	Lori Saxena
5	OH	Rootstown	Northeast Ohio Medical University	Aashi Anne



BH	OK	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience	William Wang
13	PA	Hershey	Penn State College of Medicine	Thussenthan Walter-Angelo
7	PA	Philadelphia	The University of Pennsylvania	Ifenna Amaefuna
BH	PA	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh SfN Chapter	Dat Tien Bui
19	PA	Scranton	The University of Scranton	Auden Gu
BH	RI	Providence	Brown University	Neysa Dadhi
27	TX	Dallas	The Hockaday School	Shadt Skawratananond
BH	UT	Salt Lake City	Neurosci Initiative Prog; Univ. of Utah	Ziyu Wang
26	VA	Harrisonberg	James Madison University	Justin Wheelock
BH	VA	Lynchburg	Liberty University	William Hu
17	VT	Burlington	University of Vermont	Vilena Lee
23	WA	Seattle	Neurology Headache Clinic	Sathvik Kakanuru
14	WV	Morgantown	Morgantown High School	Asritha Sure

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### Contact

Patricia Fanning  
Senior Media Relations Specialist, UMB  
[pfanning@umaryland.edu](mailto:pfanning@umaryland.edu)  
410-706-7946

Norbert Myslinski  
Founder and National Director, Brain Bee  
[nmyslinski@umaryland.edu](mailto:nmyslinski@umaryland.edu)  
410-706-7258