



Announcing

## **"The Scientific Journey: Pathways to Discovery" 2007-08 Essay Contest**

An opportunity for elementary science teachers to save time planning and marking, while enhancing your students' literacy, both written and scientific,

**and...**

an opportunity for students to hone their research, analysis, and writing skills, with a chance to win some great prizes!

The Children's Health Research Institute, The University of Western Ontario and Partners in Research are pleased to announce the 2007-2008 Elementary School Essay Contest for grade 5 through 8 students in The Thames Valley District School Board, London District Catholic School Board, and regional private schools. The theme of the contest is *"The Scientific Journey: Pathways to Discovery."*

Essays, typewritten or clearly hand written and limited to 1000 words in length, will be accepted on any topic related to **"How Health Research Helps Kids"** (see [list of topics](#) below). All entries must be postmarked no later than February 8, 2008.

**PRIZES:** For students in the Thames Valley District School Board, London District Catholic School Board and regional private schools we will be awarding a series of cash prizes at each grade level (grades 5-8). These prizes will consist of Gold (**\$150**), Silver (**\$100**), and Bronze (**\$50**). The grand prize winner in addition to receiving an award of **\$150** will be given the opportunity to be a "Scientist for a Day" (which involves spending a day visiting the research laboratories at the Children's Health Research Institute, and attending a luncheon with a research scientist). The roving Honour Board will also be displayed at the grand prize winner's school for the year.

All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form indicating the student's contact information, the name, address and telephone number of their school, and appropriate contact person (e.g., science teacher, advisor and/or principal).

## **About the Essay Contest Sponsors**

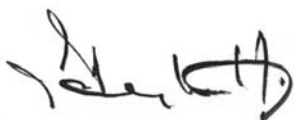
**The Children's Health Research Institute** (CHRI) is a collaborative venture by the Children's Health Foundation, The University of Western Ontario's Department of Paediatrics, and the Children's Hospital. The primary goal of the CHRI is to create and sustain an academic research centre that will improve children's health care by addressing relevant questions about the causes, cures and long term effects of children's diseases and disabilities, and by evaluating new therapies for infants and children. The Children's Health Foundation is proud to fund the CHRI and to share in its mission.

**Partners in Research** (PIR) is a registered Canadian charity, established in 1988. Their expanded mandate is to facilitate educational content in health and natural sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics. PIR's historic emphasis on health research addresses the goals of finding controls and cures for disease, the history and value of past research, and the potential of today's health research. PIR's product is knowledge, and their primary focus is in Canadian schools, where they provide a range of free educational materials through print, video and digital formats.

**The University of Western Ontario** ranks among the top research-intensive universities in Canada. Western has been home to scholars and students since 1878 and is now the third largest university in Ontario.

For more information about our respective organizations and the nature of our work and educational outreach programs, we invite you to visit us online at: [www.pirweb.org](http://www.pirweb.org) (Partners in Research), [www.chri.org](http://www.chri.org) (Children's Health Research Institute), and [www.uwo.ca/research](http://www.uwo.ca/research) (The University of Western Ontario).

We sincerely hope that your students and staff will have an interest in being part of this academic adventure!



**Stephen Hay**  
Managing Director  
Partners in Research



**Dr. Victor K.M. Han**  
Scientific Director  
Children's Health  
Research Institute



**Dr. Ted Hewitt**  
Vice-President (Research and  
International Relations)  
The University of Western Ontario

## **Essay Topics**

The theme of the essay contest is '**How does health research help kids?** Tell us about a research breakthrough you have learned about, or a current research topic related to kids that you are interested in.

### ***Suggested topics:***

- Growth and development
- Cells, tissues, organs and systems
- Nutrition
- Effects of substance abuse on children
- Long term effects of children's health on the family and community
- Impact of technology on health research
- Other topics of your choice

Essay submissions that comply with all official rules as set out will be judged by a panel of experts recruited by the Children's Health Research Institute. Papers will be judged by: (1) content, (2) originality, (3) organization and (4) grammar.

## **Official Rules for the Essay Awards Program**

- Each essay must be accompanied by an entry form that includes the student's name, grade, name of school and name of contact person (e.g., science teacher, principal) and contact information (e.g., telephone/email address).
- All essays must be titled.
- Essays must contain a minimum of 300 words and no more than 1,000 words.
- Essays may be typed, or clearly hand written.
- All essays must be free of plagiarism and written in your own words.
- Each essay should include a bibliography at the end of the essay.
- There must be 2 copies of each essay submitted.
- Do not include identifier information (e.g., name, school name) on the essay pages.
- Essay entries submitted should be sent in a single envelope or packaged together with all others being submitted by your teacher.
- All entries become the property of the Children's Health Research Institute/Partners in Research and will not be returned.
- Your entries must be postmarked no later than February 8, 2008.

**Eligibility:** Students in grades 5 through 8, currently enrolled in elementary schools from the Thames Valley District School Board, London District Catholic School Board and regional private schools may submit entries.

For more information please contact the Children's Health Research Institute at (519) 685-8306.