



The International Brain Bee

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2024 IBB World Championship

Samuel Richards, a 16-year-old student from Australia is the 2024 International Brain Bee World Champion. Second place went to Lisa Wei from Canada, and third place to Jerry (Siqi) Pan from China, both also 16 years old.

The IBB World Champion will receive a monetary prize of US \$3,000, a personalized plaque and a medal. The second and third place winners will also receive a medal and monetary prizes of US \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

The top five winners will have the opportunity to participate in the second IBB NextGen event to be hosted at the Alzheimer's Disease International Forum (AAIC) in Toronto, Canada, in July 2025. Joining Samuel, Lisa, and Jerry will be Harini Venkatesh from the United States and Chi Lok Chen from Macao.

"Our Brain Bee champions are truly exceptional and inspiring", said Tasia Asakawa, FENS Executive Director, and Vice Chair of the IBB Board and World Championship Chair. "It was a delight to host the inaugural IBB NextGen event in Vienna and to meet the top five 2023 winners. This year's champions can look forward to an equally amazing experience next year."

The five champions were announced at the virtual award ceremony on October 5 by their respective 2023 predecessors who participated in the inaugural IBB NextGen held at the FENS Forum in Vienna, Austria, in June of this year.

Also announced was the winner of the 2024 IBB Neuroanatomy/Histology Award. Samuel Richards from Australia took his second honor as the competitor with the top scores in both the neuroanatomy and neurohistology components of the competition. The prize consists of US \$100 and a book on the works of 1906 Nobel Laureate Santiago Ramon y Cajal.

The 2024 World Championship was held in conjunction with Neuroscience 2024, the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) in Chicago, IL, where the winners were also announced at a Brain Awareness Campaign Event on October 5.

The IBB is the world's premier neuroscience competition for teenagers. The World Championship brings together students from across the world for an exciting competition and educational experience. A record number of 37 national Brain Bee champions from across the globe took part in the virtual 2024 event held from September 27-October 5. Each competitor had previously won the highest level of Brain Bee competition in their country to qualify for the World Championship.

The challenging competition was conducted in two parts. All competitors completed three separate tests (written exam, neuroanatomy & neurohistology, and patient diagnosis) within a 38.5-hour timeframe at the beginning of the World Championship. Based on their total combined scores, 10 finalists advanced to the Live Judging Session, a question-and-answer round with three prominent neuroscientist judges. In addition to the competition, the World Championship program also included team activities, a cultural video exchange, lectures, workshops, an interactive neuroscience demonstration, and a career panel. Most of the sessions, including the Opening Ceremony and Award Ceremonies were live streamed and can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

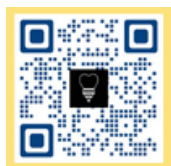
The new two-event format of a virtual championship and a subsequent in-person IBB NextGen event is designed to ensure accessibility, equity, and diversity, and to award the top competitors with a unique educational experience without the pressures of the competition. To align with the IBB's objective to encourage students to pursue a career in neuroscience, neuroscience-related fields, or medicine, IBB NextGen focuses on their future academic pursuits and career development.

"The Society for Neuroscience congratulates all national champions who participated in the World Championship. They represent the next generation of neuroscientists who inspire the field with their achievements," said Lisa Chiu, SfN Managing Editor, BrainFacts & Director, Public Communications.

The IBB was incorporated in 2018 as a non-profit educational organization and is supported and governed by: the Alzheimer's Association, the American Psychological Association (APA), the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN).

The IBB gratefully acknowledges its Governing Partners, program partners and 2024 IBB World Championship sponsors, including The Alex Manful Fund (www.TheAlexManfullFund.org), and Eleanor Thompson for sponsoring this year's Career Panel in memory of Dr. Drew C. Richardson. The 2024 World Championship is also supported in part by a grant from the Dana Foundation.

For more information, contact Astrid Eberhart (IBB Executive Director) at astrid.eberhart@thebrainbee.org.



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Table 1: Ranking of finalists by overall score

Australia	Samuel Richards
Canada	Lisa Wei
China	Jerry (Siqi) Pan
USA	Harini Venkatesh
Macao	Chi Lok Chen
Iran	Mohaddeseh Saedy Germi
Hungary	Benedek Csirmaz
Ukraine	Andrii Dudnyk
Latvia	Ilans Birmans
Hong Kong	Andrew (Yan Chung) Cheung

Table 2: Listing of remaining participants in alphabetical order by country

Argentina	Micaela Escobar
Armenia	Hrant Shadyan
Azerbaijan	Zilan Alasgarova
Brazil	Gabriel dos Santos
Egypt	Omar Elmekawy
France	Ayda Durubal
Germany	Krzysztof Janota
Georgia	Irma Gvilia
India	Shreshta Pottabhathini
Israel	Yuli Simhoni
Italy	Francesco Contasti
Japan	Misaki Ozawa
Kazakhstan	Sunnat Bakhodirov
Kenya	Valerie Angwenyi
Korea	Eunsung Kim
Lithuania	Gabrielė Toliušytė
Malaysia	Siti Nadiah Amirah binti Mohd Fadhil
Nepal	Kavya Pokharel
Netherlands	Gina Dijkstra
New Zealand	Xinxin Zhu
Pakistan	Mustabshera Bisharat
Palestine	Tia Abu Sneineh
Poland	Joanna Urbaniak
Romania	Ioana Tanțoș
Turkey	Gülce Ağartan
United Kingdom	Tomos Hunt
Vietnam	Bao Nguyen