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Summer Science Program to Open at Purdue

Teenagers will design custom molecules that could protect crops from fungal infection

WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – The Summer Science Program, an educational nonprofit, will open a Biochemistry program in summer 2017 at Purdue University. Next June, 24 of the world’s most promising high school science students will converge on Purdue from around the world. For the next 39 days they will do challenging, hands-on research, within a collaborative community of scholars.

Taught and guided by Purdue Biochemistry faculty, and working in teams of three, students will isolate an enzyme from a species of fungus that is harmful to crops, model its structure, then hypothesize a potential inhibitor molecule specific to that fungus. In between classroom and lab time learning to do this drug discovery research, they will hear and meet prominent guest speakers, and take behind-the-scenes tours of area companies doing related work. This new research project was developed by Purdue faculty Dr. Mark Hall and Dr. Stefan Paula, with a grant from the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation.

The Summer Science Program has a 58-year track record of helping gifted teens realize their potentials. Next summer at Purdue and two other campuses, participants will experience an intense, life-changing first immersion into authentic experimental science, inspiring and preparing them to become tomorrow’s STEM innovators.

Complete information about SSP is at summerscience.org.

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