

ESHG Education Committee Report

The main activity of the Education Committee of ESHG in 2013-2014 has been the

"Seventh Annual European DNA Day Essay Contest for High School Students".

In October 2013, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics, representatives from the education committees of ESHG, ASHG and HGSA (Human Genetics Society of Australasia) met to formulate the following

DNA DAY 2014 – ESSAY CONTEST question:

Complex traits, such as blood pressure, height, cardiovascular disease, or autism, are the combined result of multiple genes and the environment. For one complex human trait of your choosing, identify and explain the contributions of at least one genetic factor and one environmental factor. How does this interplay lead to a phenotype? Keep in mind that the environment may include nutrition, psychological elements, and other non-genetic factors.

This year 17 European countries submitted 163 essays. The evaluation was made involving 35 experts in the field. And to the delight of the European Society of Human Genetics, 4 winners and 13 honorable mentions were selected:



1st place

**Glielmo Finotti,
Teacher: Manuela Granella
IIS Ferrari, Este, Italy.**



2nd place

**Rebecca Nunn,
Teacher: Jonathan Avon
The North Halifax Grammar School,
Halifax, United Kingdom**

3rd place-ex aequo

**Margot C.M. Legal, Teacher: Paule
Bernaud Lycée Sainte Marie, Cholet,
France**

**Diana Vojevodina,
Teacher: Julija Baniukevic
Lithuanian Centre of
Non-formal Youth Education,
Vilnius, Lithuania.**

Honourable Mentions (in alphabetical order)

Pedro Constantino, Portugal

Daniela Costa-Teacher: M. Azevedo, Portugal

Daniel Davidov-Teacher: N. Džamić-Šepa, Serbia

Ester Gherzi, Italy

Kayleigh Herber-Teacher: F. Dirx, Netherlands

Seemal Maqsood-Teacher: J. Marie Williams, Bahrain

Silvia Ottaviani-Teacher: E. Lucifredi, Italy

Marta Paśławska, Poland

Margaret Senturk-Teacher: E. Yemisen, Turkey

Demetra Stavrou-Teacher: A. Kleanthous, Cyprus

Živilė Vėbraitė-Teacher: A. Daulenskiene,, Lithuania

Alice Vicente- Teacher: P. Castelhano, Portugal

Please visit the web page of ESHG to view the essays:

<http://www.dnaday.eu/>

and also watch the online premier in celebration of National DNA Day
"The Animated Genome"

<http://unlockinglifescode.org/learn/the-animated-genome>.

ESHG Education Committee

Tayfun Özçelik (Chair, Ankara, Turkey),	2014 2 nd
Agnes Bloch-Zupan (Strasbourg, France)	2014 2 nd
Martina Cornel (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)	2012 2 nd
Peter Farndon (Birmingham, UK)	2013 2 nd
Vaidutis Kucinkas (Lithuania)	2014 2 nd
Marina Soller (Lund, Sweden)	2014 2 nd

Liaison Members:

Alastair Kent (Patient Organizations, GIG and EAGS)
Celia DeLozier (ASHG – Education Committee)