

## Greek students finalists for 'Kids Nobel'

Two local scholars distinguished by Molecular Frontiers Foundation in Sweden

**Greek students** are receiving international acclaim for their contributions to scientific thought and exploration. Two students, Eleni Laidikou and Maria Zygouroulou, reached the final round in the contest for the so-called "Kid

### The mission

'Inspiring young people to take an interest in the molecular sciences'

Nobel" prize awarded by the Molecular Frontiers Foundation (MFF) competition held on May 30 at the Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. Their questions were chosen and discussed by the judges, among which were two Nobel laureates.

That wasn't the extent of the Greek presence in youth distinction in the sciences. Greek scientist mentors, recognized for their contributions to valuable discussions with school students in the process leading up to the prize, included Antonia Vyrkou, Panagis Kyrtatos,



**The candidates** for the 'Kid Nobel' prize group together for a snapshot in front of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, home of the Nobel Prize, on May 30.

Sergios-Orestis Kolokotronis, and Constantina Papageorgiou.

The global non-profit MFF, founded in 2006, was created to promote a scientific perspective in society. It places particular emphasis on "inspiring young people to take an interest in the molecular sciences." The result is a dialogue between both scientific beginners and experts, noted schol-

ars, who include Nobel Prize winners. The MMF Symposium and Youth Forum's Molecular Frontiers Inquiry Prize, dubbed by the media as the "Kid Nobel," discusses the questions posed by young peers.

The foundation last year set up the interactive website MoleClues, [www.moleclues.com](http://www.moleclues.com), to create a virtual environment where curi-

ous students could talk to each other and to scientific experts about science, all culminating with the awarding of the Molecular Frontiers Inquiry Prize.

The director of the prize competition, Andreas Mershin, PhD, remarked that the "prize offers a fantastic opportunity to fire up young minds and help them fall in love with science."