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## Ten Science-Inquisitive Teenagers Win Prizes

Ten young contestants win the **Molecular Frontiers Inquiry Prize**. Five girls and five boys from five countries receive awards for asking the most imaginative and insightful questions about molecules in an international competition.

**Molecular Frontiers Foundation** (MFF), an international effort to promote the position of science in society, reaches out to youth worldwide over the Internet. To stimulate curiosity, MFF invites youth to ask questions about anything relating to molecules. A young scientist, from a network of mentors, guides the inquisitor to an answer through a dialogue that takes place on the **MoleClues** Web site ([www.MoleClues.org](http://www.MoleClues.org)). Questions of particular significance advance to a final selection round. The Scientific Advisory Board of the organization makes the final selection of awardees. This board comprises a group of eminent scientists, representing 14 countries and including nine Nobel laureates.

"What if someone asked you 'How are shells made?,' 'When did molecules come into being?' or 'Why aren't plants black?,' what would you answer?," asks Richard Zare, president of the Molecular Frontiers Foundation and one of the jurors. "At the heart of science is wonder and why the world is the way it is. All children have curiosity. We in Molecular Frontiers want to sustain curiosity as we attempt to better understand the world around us. The questions are playful, but there is a serious side to them because they challenge what we really understand. Often in science the real advances come from asking the right questions, not from solving problems," says Zare.

The prize winners, ranging from eleven to seventeen in age, were announced at the Molecular Frontiers Symposium and Youth Forum, taking place at The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden. The symposium, with the subtitle "Energy and Nano: Emerging Molecular Science & Technology" includes presentations by renowned scientists. Saturday, May 31, is directed to youth with lectures tuned to a young audience and a session for questions from participating teenagers.

Each winner will receive a medal, a certificate, an iPod Touch and an answer to his or her question. In addition, winners may receive invitations to participate in next years Molecular Frontiers Symposium.

Molecular Frontiers ([www.molecularfrontiers.org](http://www.molecularfrontiers.org)), founded as a global non-profit organization in 2006, works to promote a scientific perspective in society and places a particular focus on inspiring young people to take an interest in the molecular sciences.

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