

Release date: August 17, 2007

Molecular Frontiers Opens New Youth Site and Announces A Prize

The **Molecular Frontiers Foundation** opens **MoleClues** (www.moleclues.org), a new Web site designed for young people to explore science through virtual environments that illustrate the importance of molecules in daily life. The site offers an on-line community where visitors can connect with young peers from all over the world and encourages youth to ask questions to expert scientists. MoleClues also invites youth to submit questions as competitive entries for the Molecular Frontiers Inquiry Prize.

"I want the user to experience what we scientists experience almost every day—the feeling that you are on a mission to solve a mystery that does not have a given answer," says Per Thorén, Ph.D., project manager for MoleClues. "The Web site will have the characteristics of an adventure game, but based on reality."

A network of young scientists will answer and moderate open discussions that follow each question. Teenagers who ask questions of particular significance may win laptop computers, mobile phones or other media devices. Older winners of the Inquiry Prize may also receive invitations to Molecular Frontiers yearly conferences, where they can meet scholars at the forefront of molecular science as well as fellow young science enthusiasts.

"This prize offers a fantastic opportunity to fire up young minds and help them fall in love with science," says Andreas Mershin, Ph.D., who directs the prize competition. "Whether they win or not, they will gain an appreciation for the beauty and usefulness of approaching the world from a position of reason and inquiry."

Molecular Frontiers (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. Its scientific advisory board, an impressive group of internationally renowned scholars, including eight Nobel laureates, will guide the young MoleClues audience with the future of molecular science in sight, and will also make the final selection of prize winners.

For more information, write to info@molecularfrontiers.org