



Davidson Institute

## Fellows Scholarship

For Immediate Release  
August 30, 2021

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### **DAVIE TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR GENE THERAPY RESEARCH TO REDUCE NEURODEGENERATION**

**Angelin Mathew Named A 2021 Davidson Fellows  
Scholarship Winner**

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Davie, Fla. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2021 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Angelin Mathew of Davie. Mathew won a \$25,000 scholarship for her project, *Developing Off the Shelf Pancreases for Diabetic Patients: Bacterial Cellulose and Kombucha Waste Based Scaffolds with an Integrated Oxygen Generating System for Islet Cell Transplantation*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to be recognized as a 2021 scholarship winner.

“I am so honored to be selected as a Davidson Fellow because reading the inspiring biographies of previous Fellows convinced me that students could make meaningful contributions to research,” said Mathew. “I hope that I can use my platform as a Davidson Fellow to encourage students who don’t have easy access to labs, mentors, and connections to persevere and believe in their ideas.”

Inspired by her own family history of diabetes, Mathew developed a technique of islet cell transplantation as a possible long-term solution for type 1 diabetes which replaces the dysfunctional or destroyed insulin releasing cells with healthy ones. With the goal of increasing the efficiency and sustainability of this procedure, Mathew found she could create an artificial pancreas environment using a kombucha symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast where she could support and deliver oxygen to the insulin-secreting cells, potentially making the treatment of type 1 diabetes more accessible.

Mathew will attend Yale University in the fall where she plans to study molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. She hopes to pursue a career in academic medicine and continue advocating for the accessibility of groundbreaking diabetes treatments.

“The 2021 Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients have risen to the challenges of a global pandemic to complete significant projects within their fields of study,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “To be awarded this recognition, these students have shown immense skill and work ethic, and they should be commended as they continue their educational and research journeys while continuing to work to solve some of the world’s most vexing problems.”

The 2021 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a virtual ceremony in September 2021.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program offers \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships to students 18 or younger, who have completed significant projects that have the

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potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and music. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship has provided more than \$8.6 million in scholarship funds to 386 students since its inception in 2001, and has been named one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships by [U.S. News & World Report](#). It is a program of the Davidson Institute, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Reno, Nev. that supports profoundly gifted youth.

#### **About the Davidson Institute**

Founded by Bob Davidson in 1999, the Davidson Institute recognizes, nurtures and supports profoundly intelligent young people, and provides opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference. The Institute offers support through a number of programs and services, including the Davidson Fellows Scholarship and the [Davidson Academy of Nevada](#). For more information about the 2021 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonGifted.org/gifted-programs/fellows-scholarship](http://DavidsonGifted.org/gifted-programs/fellows-scholarship)

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*High-resolution photos are available at [www.davidsongifted.org/gifted-programs/fellows-scholarship](http://www.davidsongifted.org/gifted-programs/fellows-scholarship)*