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SALINE TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLATFORM TO PREDICT RNA STRUCTURE FOR USE IN VIRUS TREATMENTS

Neel Moudgal Named A 2022 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

Saline, Mich. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2022 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 16-year-old Neel Moudgal of Saline. Moudgal won a \$25,000 scholarship for his project, *Using Unassigned NMR Chemical Shifts to Model RNA Secondary Structure*. He is one of only 21 students across the country to be recognized as a 2022 scholarship winner.

“I am deeply honored to have been selected to be a 2022 Davidson Fellow,” said Moudgal. “To me being a Davidson Fellow speaks to creativity, passion, and tenacity. I am excited to meet the other like-minded 2022 Fellows, and develop lasting connections. In the future, I hope to mentor other young scholars and inspire them to reach for the stars.”

For his project, Moudgal developed a new platform to predict the structure of various RNA molecules rapidly with easily available data, potentially allowing researchers to develop novel treatments for emerging pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses. Moudgal’s method, using only readily available, unassigned chemical shift data to predict the structural properties of an RNA molecule, has the potential to significantly reduce the costs associated with drug development to make medical treatments more affordable.

Moudgal is a rising senior at Saline High School, and he hopes to continue his studies in biophysics and statistics with the eventual plan to pursue a career in medical research. In his free time, Moudgal enjoys traveling with his family and pursuing his hobby of collecting rocks, stamps and coins, an interest he learned from his grandfather.

“This year’s class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients continue to find new and innovative ways to pursue their educational and research journeys while striving to solve some of the world’s most vexing problems,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “These students have not just overcome the challenges of doing significant work during a pandemic; our Fellows have embraced the new opportunities that have come from creative, outside-the-box thinking to use technology to expand their networks of mentors and access new sources of information and data, resulting in a very diverse portfolio of projects.”

The 2022 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a reception at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and with a virtual project presentation ceremony in September 2022.

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 potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and music. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship has provided more than \$9 million in scholarship funds to 4,07 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 2022 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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High-resolution photos are available at
[DavidsonFellows.org](#)