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U.S. NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

LOCAL STUDENTS WIN CHANCE TO QUALIFY FOR INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD, IChO

The Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society has announced the names of 15 outstanding high school chemistry students. These students are moving forward to the second part of the competition. They will take a national exam that may qualify them to become members of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Team that will compete in the 50th IChO competition, July 19-29, 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Elizaveta Zheleznyakova	Baltimore Polytechnic Institute	Adam Steven Wishart
Abigail J. Macher	Bethesda Chevy Chase High School	Nurgul Kalyoncu Balimtas
Sayak Maity	Centennial HS	Robert Astri
Thomas Luo	Centennial HS	Robert Astri
William Jeffery Holbrook	Hereford High School	Charles Fluharty
Abhinav Modugula	Long Reach High School	Chariz Penalber-Johnstone
Ronald Henry Erdman	Loyola Blakefield	Rosa Pongchit
Isuru Sachintha Herath	Marriotts Ridge High School	Jennifer Cooper
Zhuoyuan Li	Marriotts Ridge High School	Jennifer Cooper
Chase Blanchette	Mount Hebron High School	Mary Ann Sankey
Yashas Anil	Mount Hebron High School	Mary Ann Sankey
Benjamin Elias Ruggeri	Towson High School	Ronald Schneider
Wilson Robert Turner	Towson High School	Ronald Schneider
Rachel Pontious*Alt	Baltimore Polytechnic Institute	Adam Steven Wishart
Nadia Sadqi* Alt	Bethesda Chevy Chase High School	Nurgul Kalyoncu Balimtas

The IChO involves a series of theoretical exams, laboratory exercises, and other activities aimed at identifying the best chemistry students from participating nations from around the world. The U. S. has participated in this event since 1984. In 2017, a total of 293 students represented 75 countries at the 49th IChO, in Nakhon Pathon, Thailand. All members of the U.S. Team won gold medals. This was the best performance in the history of the U.S. Team!

Our 13 local nominees are among over 1,200 nationwide that will take a national qualifying exam April 14-25, 2018 to select 20 finalists. These twenty students will be identified and will undergo intensive training June 10 - June 25, 2018 at the US Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The top four students will be chosen to represent U.S. in the 50th IChO competition, July 19-29, 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic.

The American Chemical Society was founded and chartered by Congress in 1876. It is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to the advancement of chemistry in the public interest, serving about 160,000 members. The Maryland Section is one of 185 local sections across the nation serving more than 2,000 members.