

## 2026 Science Fair Highlights

The **69<sup>th</sup> Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit** was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Huntington Place in Detroit. There were 776 projects (631 individuals and 145 teams) entered from seven counties across southeastern Michigan. The **32<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Science and Engineering Fair** was hosted once again on Saturday, April 11, 2026, by Lawrence Technological University in Southfield and included 55 projects from across the state. During the week of May 10-15, 2026, the grand award winners from SEFMD and MSEF presented their projects at the **76<sup>th</sup> Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair** in Phoenix, AZ, competing against over 1600 students from around the world!

All of the stages of science fair competition (from the local school fairs to the International Fair) would not be possible without the numerous volunteers (judges, mentors, display and safety team), teachers, parents, board members, operating council members, and donors! **Thank you to all!**

**Save these dates for 2027:**

**SEFMD: March 15-19, 2027** (Judging day: Wed., 3/17/2027) at Huntington Place

**MSEF: Saturday, April 10, 2027** at Lawrence Technological University



### **Regeneron ISEF Finalists from**

**SEFMD, MSEF, and the Southwest**

**Michigan Science & Engineering Fair**

*Top row:* Arnav Sharma, Michael Hua, Ali Alnaib, Yuvan Muppireddy

*Middle Row:* Yashvini Goddla, Dean Jordan, Nina Shaye, Shruthika Pallapothu

*Bottom row:* Claire Tong, Aanya Goel, Ahyoung Song, Janelle Yao, Judy Bai, Saikrish Balaji

*(Nina, Claire, Aanya, Janelle, and Yuvan are finalists from the Southwest Michigan Fair.)*

### **MSEF Grand Award Winners**

**Michael Hua** (grade 11, Cranbrook Kingswood Academy): “Decoding Light: Physics-aware Self-Supervised AI for Low-Cost Hyperspectral Imaging.” **ISEF Awards:** 1<sup>st</sup> place (\$6,000) category award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines, 4<sup>th</sup> place award (\$400) from the Association for Computing Machinery, and Midjourney Special Award (\$2500).

**Nina Shaye** (grade 10, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center): “Transforming Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Using a Novel CNN-ViT AI Model.” (category: Translational Medical Sciences)

## SEFMD Senior Grand Award Winners

**Dean Jordan** (grade 11, International Academy - West): “Towards Completing and Annotating the Human Connectome with CGNN: Connectome Generation Neural Network.” **ISEF Award:** 2<sup>nd</sup> place (\$2,400) category award in Biomedical Engineering.

**Ahyoung Song & Arnav Sharma** (grade 11, International Academy - East): “Expanding the Druggable Human Proteome Five-Fold.” **ISEF Award:** 2<sup>nd</sup> place (\$2,400) in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

**Ali Alnaib** (grade 11, Salem H.S.): “Structural Optimization of Wireless Power Transfer Using 3D-Printed Metamaterials.” **ISEF Award:** 3<sup>rd</sup> place (\$1,200) in Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design.

**Yashvini Goddla** (grade 11, Detroit Country Day School): “ReinforCell: A Reinforcement Learning Solution to Engineer Robust CAR-T Cells for Cancer Patients.” **ISEF Award:** 4<sup>th</sup> place (\$600) in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

**Judy Bai** (grade 12, Greenhills School): “Identifying Psychiatric Gene Modules with scRNAseq”. (category: Biomedical and Health Sciences)

**Saikrish Balaji** (grade 11, Troy Athens H.S.): “Investigating the Effects of Heating on DSLIM Efficiency: A Novel Approach to Undersea Magnetohydrodynamic Propulsion.” (category: Engineering Technology)

**Shruthika Pallapothu** (grade 12, Troy H.S.): “AI-Guided Autonomous Nanobot for Artery Blockage Detection and Plaque Removal.” (category: Biomedical Engineering)

## SEFMD Junior & Elementary Grand Award Winners

**Lakshitha Addala** (grade 8, Baker M.S.): “PulseAI Responder” (category: Medicine & Health)

**Meher Cuchelkar** (grade 7, Detroit Country Day M.S.): “Winter Blues: A Study of Student and Teacher Wellness in a Middle School in Southeast Michigan” (category: Behavioral & Social Science)

**Hamsaridhan Hariharasudhan** (grade 8, Larson M.S.): “Microbe Massacre” (category: Biology)

**Harshi Jariwala** (grade 7, Indus Center for Academic Excellence): “Smart Pothole Detection and Reporting Using AI” (category: Technology)

**Lana Moussa** (grade 8, Universal Learning Academy – Middle): “Thermal Shield: Engineering Walls to Reduce Heat Loss” (category: Engineering)

**Neelanshi Sharma** (grade 5, Wass Elementary): “Is it possible to make a tool that can detect skin cancer?” (category: Life Science)

**Cooper Smith** (grade 7, St. Patrick Catholic Whitelake): “Blocking the Burn: How SPF and Sunscreen Type Affect UV Protection” (category: Chemistry)

*Paula Golden & Maria Wronski from Broadcom Foundation (a major SEFMD sponsor) present the Broadcom Coding with Commitment award to Aditi Rateesh (grade 6, Plymouth Scholars M.S.) for her project/invention: “Dry Smart.”*

