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SUNNYVALE TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 FOR CREATING MECHANISM THAT TREATS HEART DISEASE **Arvind Sridhar to be Named a 2017 Davidson Fellow**

Reno, Nev. – The Davidson Institute of Talent Development has announced the 2017 Davidson Fellows. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Arvind Sridhar of Sunnyvale. Sridhar won a \$25,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for his project, *Engineering Injectable, Conductive Hydrogels Doped with Graphene and Graphene Oxide Nanoparticles for Post-MI Cardiac Tissue Engineering and Robust Drug Discovery: A Computationally-Aided Investigation for Enhancing Therapeutic Efficacy*. He is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“I am excited for the opportunity to connect with researchers and other students through the Davidson Fellows platform, to share ideas about combating heart disease, collaborate on common research and entrepreneurial interests, and enhance the possibilities of health care,” said Sridhar.

In 2017, over eight million people worldwide will die of cardiac diseases. Sridhar sought to harness the potential of stem cells, hydrogels, and algorithmic tools to design low-cost and non-invasive diagnostic and therapeutic devices for heart disease patients worldwide. He first designed an injectable, conductive hydrogel scaffold with the potential to encapsulate stem cells as they are injected into the heart, nourishing and anchoring them to enable cardiac regeneration. Then, he created computational tools to rapidly and cost effectively evaluate the phenotype of beating tissue samples, to aid doctors and researchers in diagnosing and treating heart disease. Overall, these platforms could improve the therapeutic outlooks for patients around the world.

Sridhar is not only passionate about health care and entrepreneurship; he is also passionate about giving back to his community. He led Geography for Tomorrow, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching youth from all backgrounds about the issues, cultures, and opportunities available in our globalized world. He hopes to continue this work in college.

Sridhar will attend the University of California, Berkeley in the fall, where he will major in management in the entrepreneurship and technology program. He hopes to pursue a career in technological entrepreneurship, designing computational platforms to enhance health care, IoT, and human-AI interaction.

“We are thrilled to recognize the 2017 Davidson Fellows not only for their incredible projects, but also for the journey they forged to reach this point,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “Every year I am amazed by the depth of the Fellows’ accomplishments. Through encouragement and recognition, the Davidson Institute for Talent Development anticipates that gifted students like these will be among the pioneers who will solve the world’s most vexing problems.”

The 2017 Davidson Fellows will be honored at a reception in Washington, D.C., on September 27.

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 \$7.1 million in scholarship funds to more than 300 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 for Talent Development, 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 for Talent Development 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](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org). For more information about the 2017 Davidson Fellows, please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship.

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High-resolution photos are available at www.DavidsonGifted.org.