

**For Immediate Release**  
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**WOODCLIFF LAKE TEEN AWARDED \$50,000 FOR DEVELOPING METHOD TO REVERSE  
DRUG RESISTANCE FOR USE IN TREATING AGGRESSIVE CANCERS**  
**Varun Kumar to be Named a 2019 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winner**

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Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – The Davidson Institute for Talent Development has announced the 2019 Davidson Fellows Scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Varun Kumar of Woodcliff Lake. Kumar won a \$50,000 scholarship for his project, *Dihydropyridazinone: A Pan-Therapeutic Treatment for Chemoresistance in Cancer*. He is one of only 20 students across the country to be recognized as a scholarship winner.

“I am honored to be named a Davidson Fellow, as it validates my research efforts on drug resistance in aggressive cancers and motivates me to continue pursuing my goals,” said Kumar. “I look forward to meeting like-minded peers and learning as much from them as I have from my project.”

Kumar developed a combination therapy that may help reverse resistance to a drug commonly used (Temozolomide) to treat glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive type of brain tumor in adults. His research offers a way to enhance the efficacy of current chemotherapies, improving outcomes for patients with aggressive cancers, and may represent a promising therapeutic option for highly aggressive cancers with a way to amplify existing chemotherapies. Kumar’s model could serve as a cost effective and accessible way for other researchers to confirm that a drug has potential to reach the brain, improving the efficiency of the brain disease drug pipeline.

For his project, Kumar has been recognized as a Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalist, ISEF Third Grand Award winner, JSHS Finalist, AAN Neuroscience Research Prize Finalist, and AACR Annual Meeting poster presenter. He is a Simons Fellow and participated in the Simons Summer Research Program at Stony Brook University. Kumar also has two first-author publications in the journals *Anticancer Research* and *Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy*.

Kumar will attend Yale University in the fall to study molecular biology and data science. Outside of science, Kumar enjoys playing tennis, swimming, tutoring elementary school students, and watching stand-up comedy in his free time.

“We are proud to announce the 2019 Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients and applaud them for their hard work and achievement in their fields of study,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “By being 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 2019 Davidson Fellows will be honored at a reception in Washington, D.C., on Friday, September 27, 2019.

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 \$7.5 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](#). For more information about the 2019 Davidson Fellows, please visit [www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship).

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**High-resolution photos are available at [www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship).**