



HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY

'The Purpose of Souls is to Assist each other.'

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"FROM THE STREETS OF HARLEM, BRONX AND CAMDEN, TO RESEARCH IN MEDICINE, SCIENCE & ENGINEERING IN TOP RESEARCH LABORATORIES IN THE COUNTRY INCLUDING NASA – REALIZING THE HARLEM DREAM"

"ORIENTATION SESSION OF HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY'S SCIENCE & ENGINEERING MENTORING PROGRAM" – THINKING GLOBALLY ACTING LOCALLY

Student Orientation; Guest Lectures; Presentation by Students, Mentors, High School Principals & Science Teachers and Community Leaders; Event hosted by Nobel Laureate, Prof. Sidney Altman (Chemistry, 1989); Consul General of New Zealand, Hon. Gina Lento; NPR Science Friday, Executive Director, Ann Marie Cunningham.

NEW YORK, NY (June 29th 2006) ... The United States has enjoyed more than 50 years of superiority in scientific innovation and technological strength, but is fast losing its strength to other countries as US students struggle to maintain their enthusiasm for science and keep up with their international peers. In our increasingly *flat globalized economy* we have to prepare ourselves for new realities by building on our strength including leadership that we have enjoyed in this *increasingly connected world*.

Harlem Children Society (HCS) has over 6 years, doing its part to encourage young people's interest in health, science, and engineering, by drawing upon various resources to foster young talent and improve awareness of career options in science and technology, and provide an avenue of enrichment and reward for academic science achievement.

HCS over the years has developed a highly successful hands-on research program for the under-resourced and under-served high school students with some of the top scientists, doctors and engineers, from over 35 institutions from - Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to NASA, in its highly successful internship program, now rated as one of the largest and best programs of its kind in the country.

Over 180 such students will be inducted as fresh interns for the highly intensive research program on June 29th at 3.00 PM in the main Auditorium of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center located on 430 East 67th Street, New York. **The orientation lays the commencement of Harlem Children Society's summer & all-year round internship program and the weekly lecture series during which students present their research and are addressed by leading scientific experts as well as prominent members of society.**

The audience will mainly be comprised of over 180 participating students from over 50 High Schools from under-resourced and under-represented neighborhoods. The students will be guided and mentored by over **250 scientists, doctors and engineers in over 50 reputed Institutions all over the Tri-state area. This year we also are sending some of these young minds from such compromised situations and backgrounds, to perform research with some of the top scientists at NASA. This year will see our involvements expand to such communities in the Hopi & Navajo reservations in Arizona, New Orleans, Detroit, Michigan, Tennessee, and Kansas. All of the high school students participating in the program receive a substantial stipend/ Scholarship for their summer research. We have also expanded our Program to include some of our past students who have graduated high school; and are still pursuing research - in order to retain them in the sciences. The 'After-School' Research Internship will also continue through this year.**

Local, and national community leaders are expected to attend the event and they will address the current batch of students – which include - ***Nobel Laureate, Prof. Sidney Altman (Chemistry, 1989); Consul General of New Zealand, Hon. Gina Lento; NPR Science Friday, Executive Director, Ann Marie Cunningham.***

The 'Harlem Children Society' is a **Not-for-Profit Organization** [501(c) 3] founded by Dr. Sat Bhattacharya in 2000. He currently serves as the President and CEO of the 'Harlem Children Society'. The Goal of the organization is to increase awareness in the Sciences and to provide an opportunity for Inner city high school Students & Youth and their families living in Under-resourced & Under-served Communities & School districts. Our involvement with these communities is an enterprise and an experiment to help increase the entrepreneurial spirit of the communities. It is an Enterprise for generating Hope, for creating a culture, for arming a community with Knowledge to propel itself to the future. Please visit the 'HCS' Website – www.HarlemChildrenSociety.org for an account of our endeavors.

The *Experiment with a Dream* program, teams student interns with some of the best researchers in their fields. It is carried out at major research institutions around New York City including Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; The Rockefeller Univ.; Columbia Univ.; Columbia Univ., College of Physicians & Surgeons; New York Univ.; CUNY; Steven's Institute of Technology, NASA; and others. Scientists volunteer their time and expertise to mentor the students throughout the summer internship and all year round After School internship program, which includes laboratory work, seminars & written reports.

The Harlem Children Society's *Experiment with a Dream* project selects young people living and attending schools in under-resourced urban communities and engages them in hands-on scientific work-study at major research institutions. "It is thrilling to give the gift of hands-on learning to young people, and to see them share in the excitement of discovery. If we are able to bring science out of the academic stratosphere and give it a context, which attracts and inspires young people, we are accomplishing a great deal. If we insure that that context is inclusive of all young people – exclusive of none – then we will have succeeded," said Harlem Children Society president and CEO, Dr. Sat Bhattacharya.

"We view our involvement with these communities as an experiment and as an enterprise – an enterprise for generating hope and for arming young people with the skills and knowledge that will propel them into the future," Bhattacharya added. "These awards come after long hours of challenging work. The determination of these young people is evident. I am very proud of my students; their families, teachers, mentors and communities should also be very proud."

This year sees the participation of 180 plus High school students over 50 schools (Grades 9 - 12) from inner-city neighborhoods (mostly in NYC) and from the states of NJ, CT, TN, NC, KS and the Native American Hopi and Navajo Reservations in AZ. They would be conducting research under the mentorship of over 250 renowned scientists and researchers in over 50 institutions such as - Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Cornell University Medical Center, Columbia University, Rockefeller University, Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Beth Israel Hospital, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hunter College of CUNY, New York University, American Museum of Natural History, Fordham University, Bronx River Alliance, The Gaia Institute, and the Lehman College Natural Sciences. They will also participate in the 'After-school all-year-round Research Program where they will continue their research. The students were selected based on their motivation, enthusiasm & performance at school, on the recommendations from their principal and science teachers, and the interview during the selection process – which earned them a spot in the summer internship.

The students are given a thorough background in the sciences related to the projects, including Frequent Lectures & Tutorials by several scientists and researchers. All of the students are given rigorous training relating to the Techniques, Safe and Proper handling of devices, instruments, chemicals & biologicals relating to the ongoing projects. They are given individual projects to complete by the end of the summer term. Proper guidance and background will be given to enable them to build self-confidence and presentation skills. At the end of the summer term, the students are required to summarize their work and present their results in the laboratory and encouraged to compete with other students at several Regional and National Science conferences & Competitions.

All of our past students successfully participated & competed in several Regional & National Science conferences & Competitions in the tri-state area, including Chicago, San Diego, Colorado, etc, presenting their work with full self confidence and winning innumerable Regional and National Awards including the 'New York Times Scholarship'. They developed a sense of responsibility & commitment towards completion of their work and projects. Some of our past students have since joined leading universities like Cornell, Penn State, Rutgers, Swarthmore, Dartmouth, Columbia, NYU, RPI, MD, MD/PhD, engineering, Veterinary programs and others. All students have expressed an intense interest in the pursuit of a Career in the Sciences & Engineering.

The Harlem Children Society is dedicated to promoting innovative science education programs to children and youth living in under-resourced and underserved communities and school districts. The organization seeks to engage learners in a healthy enquiry of the world, and to expose them to opportunities available in the field of science that might be otherwise out-of-reach. Providing students with knowledge, skills, guidance, encouragement and understanding emphasize the pursuit of higher education and career achievement.

The Harlem Children Society, now regarded as one of the largest and best of its kind in the country, is supported by grants from New York Community Trust, The Pinkerton Foundation, the J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation, The Charles Hayden Foundation, Helena Rubinstein Foundation, among others.

For more information on the *Experiment with a Dream* project, contact Dr. Satyajit (Sat) Bhattacharya, Harlem Children Society, 536 East 82nd Street, Suite 5F, New York, NY 10028; Telephone: (646) 643-8563; E-mail: bhattacs@mskcc.org. Additional information is available online at: www.harlemchildrensociety.org.

HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY STATISTICS (Years 2000 – 2006)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average
STUDENT STATISTICS							
Total % of Minority Students served	100%	100%	100%	96%	96%	~96%	98%
Total % of Students based on Ethnicity							
- African American	~33%	~33%	~24%	37%	45%	~36%	~34%
- Hispanic	~33%	~33%	~61%	39%	26%	~26%	~38%
- Asian	~33%	~33%	~15%	20%	17%	~24%	~24%
- Native American	0	0	0	0	~3%	~10%	~5%
- Caucasian	0	0	0	4%	~4%	~4%	<3%
- Other	0	0	0	0	~5%	~6%	1%
Total Number of Students based on Sex							
- % of Female Students	~33%	~33%	~69%	66%	60%	64%	~52%
- % of Male Students	~66%	~66%	~31%	34%	40%	36%	~48%
Total Number of Participating Institutions/ High Schools	2	2	8	17	34	~50	N/A
Total Number of Students Selected for the Internship Program	3	3	13	47	105	~180	N/A
PARTICIPATING MENTORS AND THEIR AFFILIATIONS							
Total Number of Participating Mentors	1	1	10	47	125	~250	N/A
Total Number of Mentoring Institutions	1	1	6	16	28	~50	N/A

