



# The International Brain Bee

*... be a part of something extraordinary*

[www.thebrainbee.org](http://www.thebrainbee.org)

## 2021 IBB World Championship

*...one competition, two World Champions*

Following the cancellation of last year's competition, the 2021 International Brain Bee (IBB) World Championship crowned two World Champions. 16-year-old Viktoriia Vydzhak from the Ukraine is the 2021 World Champion and 17-year-old Rahil Patel from the United States took the title for 2020. Both will receive a monetary prize of \$3,000.

Both second place winners are from Malaysia: Ahmed Adam Bin Razman (17) for 2021 and Yu Cheng Lim (17) for 2020. Two 15-year-old students took third place: Canadian Antoni Klonowski for 2021, and Peter Susanto from Australia for 2020. The monetary prize for second place is US \$2,000, and US \$1,000 for third place.

A total of 43 students representing 31 nations and regions from six continents were invited to gather virtually from November 5-8, 2021, for an exciting competition and educational social program. The IBB is the world's premier neuroscience competition for teenagers, and each competitor had previously won their national or regional Brain Bee to qualify for the World Championship.

The challenging competition was conducted in two parts. All competitors completed four separate tests (written exam, neuroanatomy, neurohistology, and patient diagnosis) under pre-arranged supervision within a 24-hour timeframe at the beginning of the World Championship. Based on their total combined scores, 24 finalists participated in the second part of the competition, a live question-and-answer round with four prominent neuroscientist judges.

The top three competitors from each year will also receive additional prizes from one of the IBB's partners - Leadership Initiatives. The first and second place winners will receive full scholarships to their 2022 Virtual Advanced Medical Neuroscience Internship. The third-place winners will receive one-on-one mentorship calls with two neuroscience experts. All competitors will be offered partial scholarships to attend one of Leadership Initiatives Internship programs at a reduced rate. "International Brain Bee competitors stand above their peers as some of the most inspiring, collaborative, curious, and dedicated students Leadership Initiatives has the honor to work with," said Marshall Bailly, Executive Director of Leadership Initiatives.

2021 World Champion Viktoriia Vydzhak ‘took home’ another prize, the inaugural IBB Neuroanatomy/Histology Award, as the competitor with the top scores in both the neuroanatomy and neurohistology components of this year’s competition. The award was established with a donation from IBB Board member Dr. Linda J. Richards (Chair of the Department of Neuroscience at Washington University) to recognize the importance of neuroanatomy and histology to understanding the brain. Viktoriia will receive US \$100 and a book on the works of 1906 Nobel Laureate Santiago Ramon y Cajal.

In addition to the competition, the World Championship program also included a cultural video exchange, lectures, a career panel, and a team contest. Following the World Championship, competitors had the opportunity to attend Neuroscience 2021, the virtual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience and largest gathering of brain scientists in the world.

At the Awards Ceremony, Chair of the 2021 IBB World Championship Planning Committee and IBB Board member Dr. Garth A. Fowler noted that because of the incredibly close scores, the number of competitors that advanced to the live judging round doubled from what had been communicated in advance, to give as many competitors as possible the chance to take home the world title.

Dr. Jaime Diaz-Granados, IBB Board Chair, commented, “The knowledge demonstrated by the competitors was amazing and it was inspiring to witness their performance. We look forward to following them and learning about their academic studies and professional careers.”

The IBB was incorporated in 2018 as non-profit educational organization with the support of five international neuroscience and educational organizations. The organizations also form the IBB’s governing body with a sixth Governing Partner that joined in 2021: Alzheimer’s Association, American Psychological Association (APA), the Dana Foundation, the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN).

The Brain Bee is online at [thebrainbee.org](http://thebrainbee.org) and on social media at [facebook.com/internationalbrainbee](https://facebook.com/internationalbrainbee) and [instagram.com/ibb\\_org](https://instagram.com/ibb_org).

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Table 1: Ranking of finalists by overall score

<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>	
Ukraine	Viktoriiia Vydzhak	USA	Rahil Patel
Malaysia	Ahmed Adam Bin Razman	Malaysia	Yu Cheng Lim
Canada	Antoni Klonowski	Australia	Peter Susanto
USA	Yashwanth Gokarakonda	Ukraine	Ostap Shyika
Egypt	Bishoy Kamel	Israel	Muhammad Wattad
Germany	Jona David Schulz-Oster	Brazil	João De Carlo
Romania	Diana Marinescu	UK	Timothy Lee
Russia	Kharun Aslan	India	Praveena Sunsree
Macao	Sap Tou Lao	Iran	Ehsan Rezaei Moghaddam
South Korea	Yoona Kim	Germany	Krupa Poria
Lithuania	Edgaras Zaboras		
Brazil	Kaléo Ferreira		
Croatia	Paula Šego		
Iran	Hasti Fakhri		

Table 2: Ranking of remaining participants in alphabetical order by country

<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>	
Chile	Catalina Jara	Argentina	Jerónimo Rodríguez Cuello
China	Zitong Cheng	China	Ruoqi Yuan
France	Alexis Vitalis	Egypt	Ziad Hamad
Grenada	Jaden Stanislaus	France	Matsuko Sano*
Hong Kong	Long Hei Anson So	Nepal	Awahan Sapkota
Japan	Nayuta Mizuguchi	New Zealand	Kai Guo*
Nepal	Ankita Subedi	Russia	Azamat Sibgatullin
Netherlands	Katinka Ruhof	St. Maarten	Aryan Notani
Poland	Patryk Wekwejt		
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Melissa Mills		
UK	Rhian Lindsay Dowding		

*\*withdrew from competition*



2021 IBB World Champion  
**Viktoriia Vydzhak**  
Ukraine



2021 Second Place Winner  
**Ahmed Adam Bin Razman**  
Malaysia



2021 Third Place Winner  
**Antoni Klonowski**  
Canada



2020 IBB World Champion  
**Rahil Patel**  
USA



2020 IBB Second Place Winner  
**Yu Cheng Lim**  
Malaysia



2020 IBB Third Place Winner  
**Peter Susanto**  
Australia