

## Vienna Girl Wins Genetics Society Award

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In celebration of National DNA Day on April 25, and to educate teachers and students about the importance and implications of genetic research, the American Society of Human Genetics ( <http://www.ashg.org>) and the Genetics Society of America ( <http://www.genetics-gsa.org>) have released the middle and high school winners of the third annual National DNA Day Essay Contest.

Elizabeth K. Cole, 11, of Vienna, a home schooled student, earned third place and \$150 for her essay discussing the second question posed: "Why is it important for us to discover the patterns of genotypic and phenotypic similarity and difference in living things and why should we understand the theories that describe the importance of genetic diversity for species and ecosystems?"

Cole took a different approach to answering this question by describing genetic diversity in terms of its effects and impact on human disease. To read her prize-winning essays and to learn more about the National DNA Day Essay Contest, go to [http://www.genednet.org/pages/k12\\_dnaday08winners\\_ecole1.shtml](http://www.genednet.org/pages/k12_dnaday08winners_ecole1.shtml).

This year, the ASHG received a total of 1,037 submissions from middle and high school students residing in the U.S., Canada, and China. From ASHG and GSA, 450 genetics judged the students' essays on the basis of critical thinking, accuracy, creativity, and organization.



*Contributed*  
**Elizabeth K. Cole.**

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