



9 April 2006

**International WYP 2005
Physics Talent Search**

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to report that the World Year of Physics (WYP2005) Physics Talent Search has concluded as an overwhelming success. About 12,000 students in 20 countries participated, with about 1,000 earning national honors, 500 earning International Honorable Mention, and 180 becoming WYP2005 Physics Young Ambassadors. Most of the countries followed the international talent search guidelines quite closely, although a few countries used more traditional test-based or olympiad-like selection procedures.

Thanks to Professor Ching-Ray Chang and his colleagues in Taiwan and numerous sponsors who supported airfare, 106 students from 21 countries were able to participate in the world's first International Physics Young Ambassadors' Symposium, held from 31 December 2005 to 4 January 2006 as the final event of WYP2005. This event was truly inspirational, and some sessions, including the colloquium by Nobel Laureate Douglas L. Osheroff, were web simulcast to a global audience. Our Taiwanese hosts have prepared a CD and four DVDs of the proceedings.

While we were together in Taiwan, country leaders from each of the participating countries met to evaluate the Talent Search and consider its future. By unanimous agreement, we resolved to continue the Talent Search and organize a second symposium to be held in July or August of 2007 at a location to be determined. Many countries wanted the Talent Search and Symposium to be annual events. I have agreed to continue as the chairperson of the International Organizing Committee. Professor Andrew Gavrin (USA) is chairing the Guidelines Subcommittee, which is reviewing the guidelines. Professor Ching-Ray Chang is chairing the Symposium Planning Subcommittee.

On behalf of the International Organizing Committee for the Second WYP2005 Physics Talent Search, it is my pleasure to invite your country to conduct a Talent Search between now and March 2007. We expect the participation to be higher this time, as the publicity surrounding the initial Talent Search and Symposium has generated lots of interest and enthusiasm in many countries.

The goal of the Talent Search is to create enthusiasm, interest, and participation in physics among young people (and their families). Participating countries will identify physics-talented girls and boys who will be recognized and rewarded for their excellence in physics. The overview, guidelines, and registration form are available on the internet at <http://www.wyp2005.at/glob2-talent.htm>. Within the coming month or so, updates to the guidelines will be posted. We do not expect major changes, so I urge you to visit that site

to review the material and decide if your country is interested in participating. You are of course free to contact any of the country organizers listed for the first Talent Search, if you want to learn from their experiences in the first round.

For this Talent Search, however, all countries must conduct their talent search in accordance with the International Guidelines. Countries will not be permitted to base their search and selection solely or primarily on test(s) or Olympiads, as many of these types of competitions already exist, and they are not particularly effective at CREATING interest and enthusiasm for our field. In addition, all countries MUST REGISTER, not later than September 2006. Registration is essential for international coordination of the Talent Search, as well as for fundraising for the Symposium. A country that has not registered may not be able to participate in the Symposium in 2007.

I look forward to hearing from you about possible interest in conducting a Talent Search in your country. If you would be interested in hosting the Symposium in your country, please let me know. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly Karplus Hartline". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

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