**PROGRAM**

**Welcome:** Jennifer Raab, President, Hunter College

**Introduction:** Harold S. Koplewicz, MD, President, the Child Mind Institute

**Special Remarks:** John Weisz, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University; Recipient 2019 Sarah Gund Prize for Research and Mentorship in Child Mental Health

**Presentation of Awards**

**2019 RISING SCIENTIST AWARD WINNERS**

Jacqueline Chan  
Livingston High School, Livingston, New Jersey  
During the summer of 2018, Jacqueline completed a research internship at Rutgers’ Public Health Research Institute, investigating the effects of a high-fat diet on the pathology of Chagas Disease, a deadly endemic in Latin America caused by T. Cruzi infection. This past summer, she participated in the 7-week research program at Rockefeller University to pursue her passion for the gut microbiome and immunology. Jacqueline has also researched early detection technologies for cardiovascular disease and proposed the design of a micro-scale device which could circulate the vascular system and detect the buildup of plaques both biochemically and hemodynamically. Recently, she was awarded Honorable Mention in the Genes in Space competition by miniPCR and NASA for an exceptional research proposal about the effect of microgravity on Epstein-Barr virus mutation rates.

Jacqueline has represented Livingston High School in the NJ Science League competitions. She is the captain of her school’s Science Bowl and Science Olympiad teams. Jacqueline founded her school’s Science Helpers organization and helped organize the Peer Advisors. She is also a part of the Science Honors Program at Columbia University, where she takes courses in a variety of scientific disciplines, including neuroscience and cosmology.

Jacqueline volunteers regularly at Overlook Medical Center. She is also an accomplished pianist.

David Frank  
John F. Kennedy High School, Bellmore, New York  
David is passionate about science and magic. He is determined to make a significant impact on the field of social psychology and to improve the lives of service workers. He has authored numerous research papers including “The Effect of Reciprocity on Tipping Behavior;” “A Table Magician’s Greatest Trick: Affecting Patrons’ Tipping Habits without Them Knowing;” and, “Making Magic Happen: How Restaurant Entertainment Affects Sales and Servers’ Tips.” David is a member of the Science of Magic Association and attended the Science of Magic Conference in July 2019, where he was invited to present his research.

David has a deep interest in brain science and mental health disorders. As a freshman, David developed a theoretical app to help treat anxiety. His app received Honorable Mention recognition from the Toshiba Exploravision competition.

Over the past three years, David has worked with developmentally disabled students at Nassau BOCES, where he taught magic and performed as a volunteer. David helps organize his school’s annual Cerebral Palsy Trivia Challenge, STEAM Career Fair, and Medical Scrabble fundraiser and is currently the president of a peer-tutoring organization that donates 20 percent of all proceeds to the American Cancer Society.

David won First Place Grand Prize in the Northwell Health SPARK! Challenge. He was awarded High Honors at the Long Island Science Congress; earned Second Place in Social Psychology at the Long Island Psychology Fair; won First Honors at the Kathy Belton Science Fair; and earned Best Overall Presentation at the Nassau County Science Competition.

Emily Gold  
Ardsley High School, Ardsley, New York  
Gillian is on a mission to help the world understand the challenges of living with MS and to explore new avenues of research. She has researched modifiable lifestyle factors and cognitive abilities in multiple sclerosis patients, and spent the summer before junior year in the Neurology Department at Columbia University Medical Center studying the impact of lifestyle factors on patients with MS. Using her research, Gillian competed in Junior Symposium of Humanities and Science (JSHS), Regeneron Westchester Engineering and Science Fair (WSEF), Tri-County Science Fair, and GENIUS Olympiad, an international, by-invitation-only competition.

Gillian is the president of Girls Who Code and voluntarily leads workshops at the local library to teach coding to elementary school children. She founded Ardsley Hacks, the first hackathon for high school students in Westchester County. She created a website from scratch for the event, obtained administrative approvals and funding, and solicited tech companies for sponsorships.

Gillian is editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and has received prizes in the Hudson- Housatonic Scholastic Writing Awards and the Gold Key in Journalism, Fiction and Poetry prizes. She is also an accomplished flautist and has been a member of the Greater Westchester Youth Orchestra and All County Band.

Elizabeth Yaboni  
Smithtown High School West, Smithtown, New York  
During the summer after her freshmen year, Elizabeth conducted research on the effect of a number of different pesticides that act by inhibiting the enzyme acetylcholinesterase in Caenorhabditis elegans. For this work, Elizabeth was recognized as a semifinalist in the 2017 Siemens Math and Science Competition and she presented this work at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair and the Long Island Science Congress. After her sophomore year, Elizabeth studied the relationship between the gut and the nervous system using the sea anemone, Nematostella vectensis. Elizabeth’s idea is that this simple cnidarian is the perfect system for studying the gut/brain axis and she presented this work at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair and was awarded First Place in the Animal Science category.

Elizabeth is one of the leaders of her school’s Science Olympiad team where she focuses on Inquiry and Nature of Science events such as "Write It; Do It!" and "Experimental Design."

Elizabeth has also been working on a collaboration between science students and her school’s social worker, including on an initiative to create wearable devices that special education teachers will be able to use to help autistic students manage behaviors.

A gifted musician, Elizabeth is a member of her school’s Symphonic Orchestra and plays in a chamber group that performs at nursing homes and other community locations.
ABOUT THE RISING SCIENTIST AWARDS

Since 2012, the Rising Scientist Awards have been given annually to local high school students who demonstrate exceptional early achievement in research in child and adolescent mental health and/or pediatric neuroscience. The Rising Scientist Award is a broadly recognized sign of student excellence, and recipients have gone on to study at the nation’s most prestigious universities and have been awarded significant scientific prizes.

ABOUT HUNTER COLLEGE

Located in the heart of Manhattan, Hunter College is the largest senior college in the City University of New York (CUNY). Founded in 1870, Hunter is also one of the oldest public colleges in the country. More than 23,000 students currently attend Hunter, pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in more than 170 areas of study. Hunter’s student body is as diverse as New York City itself. For nearly 150 years, Hunter has provided educational opportunities for women and minorities, and today, students, including men, from every walk of life and every corner of the world, attend Hunter. In addition to offering a multitude of academic programs in its prestigious School of Arts and Sciences, Hunter offers a wide breadth of programs in its preeminent Schools of Education, Nursing, Social Work, Health Professions, and Urban Public Health.

ABOUT THE CHILD MIND INSTITUTE

The Child Mind Institute is an independent, national nonprofit dedicated to transforming the lives of children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders. Our teams work every day to deliver the highest standards of care, advance the science of the developing brain, and empower parents, professionals and policymakers to support children when and where they need it most. Together with our supporters, we’re helping children reach their full potential in school and in life. We share all of our resources freely and do not accept any funding from the pharmaceutical industry. Learn more at childmind.org.