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## **Nation's Top Students Exhibit Projects at National Medical Museum**

**WASHINGTON** – On Wednesday, June 14, 2000 the nation's top young history scholars will display their award winning projects in a National History Day Exhibit at the National Museum of Health and Medicine. Students' projects, which reflect this year's National History Day theme *Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events*, will be installed between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. The exhibits will be on display from June 14 through September 4, 2000.

From an initial pool of over half a million students, the top 2,000 sixth through twelfth-grade students have been selected to represent their states at the University of Maryland at College Park in the 25th annual National History Day contest. These young historians bring with them the products of months of research, creative presentations in the form of dramatic performances, documentaries, exhibits, and papers. Four of these top projects were selected because of their relevance to the Museum's focus on issues of health and medicine. The projects that will be on display include:

- **Making the Rounds: the Penicillin Story.** Joshua Gasaway (Junior Division) of Fletcher, NC explores the development of penicillin, its benefits, and the dangers we now face from the overuse of antibiotics. Joshua gained useful insight into the history of penicillin from a transcript of an interview with Howard Florey, a British pathologist who won the 1945 Nobel Prize for his work in purifying Penicillin and demonstrating its effectiveness against harmful bacteria.
- **Kalaupapa: The Amazing Transition.** David Reed and Tijay Syn-Rodriques (Junior Division), of Lahaina, HI, document an alarming health threat that came to Hawaii in the 1800s. Thought by Hawaiians to have come from China, this threat was known to the world as leprosy. This exhibit focuses on how public perception of the disease changed, from being first seen as a curse and the social policies that surrounded quarantine of those with the disease to Kalaupapa, a remote part of the island of Molokai.
- **They Opened a Heart and Opened the Future of Living Longer** Kelby and Kasondra Hofheins (Senior Division) of Beaver, UT examine the history and significance of open heart surgery as a major turning point in medicine. Dr. Walton Lillehei and Dr. John Lewis, attempted the first open heart surgery on a five-year-old girl who had been born with a hole in her heart — a procedure that would usher in the age of modern heart surgery. Kelby and Kasondra were able to interview Dr. Lillehei and Dr. Lewis for this exhibit and found some startling information about early heart surgery.
- **Beyond Shadows: Computed Tomography.** Shawn Saunders (Senior Division) of Mesa, AZ created an exhibit that explores the invention of Computed Tomography (CT), a process of examining body organs using x-rays scans and computer technology examining body organs, as the most significant turning point in medical imaging history. The display is highlighted by a working model of the early imaging scanner invented by -Sir Godfrey Hounsfield.

"It is important that students develop an appreciation for the impact of medicine and technology that helped shape America's past and which will continue to play a crucial role in the nation's future," says Cathy Gorn, Executive Director of National History Day. "This year's students have discovered the stories behind medical inventions we consider commonplace, as well as interesting facets of national and world history."

The National Museum of Health and Medicine, founded as the Army Medical Museum in 1862 to study and improve medical conditions during the American Civil War, is a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Open daily except Christmas Day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Museum is located on the campus of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, between Georgia Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Admission is free. [www.natmedmuse.afip.org](http://www.natmedmuse.afip.org).

National History Day is the nation's leading humanities education program for history education in the schools. This year the program is celebrating 25 years of making history come alive for students across America. NHD annually draws more than half a million participants in grades six through twelve in 48 states and the District of Columbia. The program provides students with the critical thinking and research skills used in all subject areas. Students research history topics of their choice related to an annual theme and create exhibits, performances, documentaries and papers, which they may enter in competitions at the district, state and national levels. National History Day also provides educational services to students and teachers, including a summer internship program, curricular materials and Web resources, and annual teacher workshops and training institutes.

For more information on National History Day visit our web site at [www.thehistorynet.com/NationalHistoryDay/](http://www.thehistorynet.com/NationalHistoryDay/).

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