



Davidson Institute  
**Fellows Scholarship**

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**CHARLOTTESVILLE TEEN AWARDED \$50,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR  
DRUG REPURPOSING TREATMENT FOR  
INFLAMMATORY JOINT DISEASES**  
**Vidya Ambati Named A 2024 Davidson Fellows Laureate Scholarship Winner**

Charlottesville, Va. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2024 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Vidya Ambati of Charlottesville. Ambati won a \$50,000 scholarship for her project, *Haloperidol Inhibits Inflammasome Activation via the Novel Receptor LAMTOR1 and Reduces the Risk of Rheumatoid and Gouty Arthritides*. She is one of only four students nationwide to be recognized as a Davidson Fellows Laureate and one of only 20 scholarship winners in the 2024 Fellows class.

“I am grateful to The Davidson Institute and the Davidson Fellows Scholarship jury for recognizing my project,” said Vidya Ambati. “To me, being a Davidson Fellow means exploring the mysteries of the universe with curiosity, diligence and purpose.”

For her project, Ambati discovered that Haldol, a drug traditionally used for mental disorders, can reduce the risk of rheumatoid arthritis and gout, which are significant causes of disability and economic loss worldwide. She found that Haldol binds to a newly identified protein, LAMTOR1, which helps suppress these forms of arthritis. This repurposing approach could potentially save years and billions of dollars in developing new treatments for these debilitating joint diseases.

Ambati is a rising high school senior in Charlottesville. She runs an international science webinar series that connects students with scientific leaders around the world to promote scientific engagement. In addition to her research, Ambati enjoys painting landscapes and sculpting pottery and has had her work displayed in a prominent museum.

"This year's class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients exemplifies the power of innovation and perseverance," said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. "Our Fellows continue to push the boundaries of their educational and research pursuits, striving to solve some of the world's most challenging problems by leveraging creative, outside-the-box thinking and cutting-edge technology to expand their networks, access new sources of information, and deliver an impressive array of diverse projects."

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The 2024 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and with a virtual project presentation ceremony in September 2024.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program offers \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships to students 18 or younger, who have completed significant projects that have the potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and music. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship has provided more than \$9.9 million in scholarship funds to 448 students since its inception in 2001, and has been named one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships by [U.S. News & World Report](#). It is a program of the Davidson Institute, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Reno, Nev. that supports profoundly gifted youth.

### **About the Davidson Institute**

Founded by Bob Davidson in 1999, the Davidson Institute recognizes, nurtures and supports profoundly intelligent young people, and provides opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference. The Institute offers support through a number of programs and services, including the Davidson Fellows Scholarship and the [Davidson Academy of Nevada](#). For more information about the 2024 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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