

Team Canada Golden at CASTIC 2019 in China

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Canada's first participation in the China Adolescents Science and Technology Innovation Contest (CASTIC) delivers two gold medals and two special awards in Macau.

Kai Leong (18) of Vancouver, BC (right in photo) and Peter (Danmeng) Zhu (16) of Moncton, NB (left in photo) received two of the 13 available International First Prize Awards (gold medals) and two Gao Shiqi Foundation of China Science and Technology Special Awards at the prestigious international youth STEM project competition, billed as the largest in Asia.

Leong developed a smartphone system that could detect potential neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, fall risks and other health conditions by analyzing changes in walking patterns. Zhu developed an AI-based technology that could determine if Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL), an extremely malignant form of leukemia, is present by analyzing images from a microscope.

The 34th edition of CASTIC welcomed 588 finalists with 437 projects from 52 countries, as well as every province and region of China, at the University of Macau. The award for the top international project went to Charles Maddock of Sweden. Youth Science Canada selected Leong and Zhou as Canada's first representatives to CASTIC during the 2019 Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton in May.

For more information

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