

USA  
BIOlympiad  
2025

# National Finals



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Center for Excellence in Education

## 2025 USABO FINALIST BI-



**Sunipun Biswas** | E.O. Smith High School, CT

Sunipun is a junior at E.O. Smith High School. His passion for biology initially developed while he was binge reading *Lodish Molecular Cell Biology* and exploring the intricate and complex cellular processes that sustain life. This interest led him to conduct research on the mechanisms inducing JMY and WHAMM to form actin territories during apoptosis. Sunipun is also an USNCO National Qualifier, USMDO Gold Medalist and an AIME qualifier. He has been involved in E.O. Smith's Science Bowl, Science Olympiad, and Ocean Bowl teams, having qualified for nationals in the latter this year. Aside from cramming on cell biology and physiology textbooks, Sunipun can be seen playing *Brawl Stars*, watching historical Viking Shows on *Netflix*, and admiring strawberries.



**R-Kai Chi** | Cranbrook Kingston Upper School, MI

R-Kai (Scott) is a rising senior at Cranbrook Schools. This is his first time to participate in the USABO National Finals. His interest in biology was strengthened sophomore year in his biology class. This led him to pursue the USABO. Beyond standard biology testing, Scott does research that focuses on Alzheimer's and digital twins and their connection to Type II Diabetes. Outside of school, he enjoys playing video games such as *Brawl Stars* and 2k with his friends. The sport he enjoys the most is basketball, and he is a die-hard NBA fan. His favorite team was the Golden State Warriors back in middle school, but he is still on the journey of finding a new team.



**Kian Dhawan** | Montgomery Blair High School, MD

Kian is a junior at Montgomery Blair High School and a returning USABO Finalist. He is fascinated by all things math and science and hopes to pursue a biochemistry career. He is a 3-time AIME Qualifier and USA National Chemical Olympiad (USNCO) High Honors recipient. Kian will be conducting research in cancer biology this summer at the University of Maryland. Apart from studying biology, Kian enjoys playing piano, solving Rubik's cubes of various sizes, playing chess, and competing in Science Bowl. His team placed 1st in the 2025 national championship. He would like to thank his parents, friends, and teachers for their never-ending support on his journey.



**Anuj Jain** | Mountain View High School, CA

Anuj Jain is a junior at Mountain View High School. His biology journey started in freshman year Honors Biology. He has completed research on topics like water filtration microbes and opioid therapy. He started participating in the USABO last year. Outside of academics, he enjoys playing tennis (or really any sport for fun), trying new foods, and writing poetry. He's looking forward to meeting the other Finalists at Harvard in the summer.



**Aarav Jindal** | Princeton International School of Math & Science (PRISMS), NJ

Aarav is a Junior at PRISMS. He explores fields from math and science to arts, Computer Science, engineering, and law. Aarav leads a CubeSat project for detecting high-energy particles bound for the ISS in late 2025. He's a USA Physics Olympiad qualifier, *BeaverWorks* UAV Challenge champion, Warren Buffett Award recipient at Penn Carey Law, and 2nd for the Next Gen LLM Award at *PennApps*. At PRISMS, he is in varsity soccer, *SciBowl* Team, Theater, leads Biology Club and co-leads Astrophysics Club. In his off-hours he plays guitar and bansuri, skis in winter, and surfs in summer. He custom-builds everything from operating systems to CPUs and telescopes—tinkering in *SolidWorks* and KiCad by day, coding in VSCode by night.



**Varshith Kotagiri** | Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science, KY

Varshith is a graduating senior at Gatton Academy and an incoming freshman at the University of Pennsylvania in the Life Sciences and Management dual degree program. He aims to combine business, biochemistry, and bioengineering in his future career. Beyond USABO, Varshith has qualified for USA Junior Mathematical Olympiad (USAJMO) and International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), while also developing his business, *TutoringOvertime*. His research breakthrough came with the creation of the first organic fluorescent sensor fully soluble in aqueous environments, opening new possibilities for biomedical applications. Outside academics, Varshith works toward his 3rd-degree black belt in taekwondo, plays guitar, enjoys Lil Uzi Vert's music, and strives to reach grand champ rank in Rocket League.





**Arjun Krish** | Saratoga High School, CA

Arjun is a junior at Saratoga High School. He developed his appreciation for biology from bingeing both Campbell and the anime Bleach, enjoying their abominable pacing simultaneously. This led him to conduct research on the regeneration of retinal neurons at Stanford for the past 3 years. Arjun is also a science bowl and League of Legends enthusiast, having played in many tournaments and committing to many hours to achieve master rank in the latter. While not reading his copy of *Systema Porifera* and *Lamnhaj's Biology of Priapulids*, writing problems, working in the lab, or spending all his time doing USABO, he enjoys hanging out with his friends and reading *magikal* research papers.



**Yujia Li** | Sage Hill School, CA

Yujia (Aurora) is a junior at Sage Hill School. Her love for life science was sparked by her first biology class in the summer before her sophomore year. She is especially interested in heredity and neuroscience and conducts research on HLA-II genes and Alzheimer's-related lab work. Outside of biology, she plays the French horn in the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble, attends Model United Nations conferences, and edits her school's art and literature magazine. You can also catch her singing karaoke, reading "brain-rot" articles about whether another human-like species lives on the ocean bed, and grabbing boba with friends. She is deeply grateful to her mom and dad, friends, mentors, and teachers for being steady voices of support throughout her journey.



**Hengzhou Li** | Northwood High School, CA

Hengzhou (Ferris) is a sophomore at Northwood High School and a returning USABO Finalist. Possessing a general fascination with the grand tapestry of life that he owes to his long-lost (but now found) brother, *Campbell Biology*, Ferris is a devout apostle of the nervous system. He is the president of his school's biology club and a vice-captain of Northwood's Science Olympiad team, winning events at the state level. In his free time. You may find him being a coffee connoisseur, teaching dance moves at Finals, or engaging in scholarly discussions on Twitter after tumultuously supporting his favorite soccer team, Tottenham Hotspur. Ferris is deeply grateful for the support of everyone along the way: family, friends, teachers, and his brilliant SciOly team.



**Lillian Liao** | Dominican International School, Taiwan

Lillian is a sophomore at Dominican International School Taipei, Taiwan. Although residing outside of the US, Lillian is a devout island girl that often visits her other home in Guam. After discovering her passion for biology, she found her calling in neurobiology. She is fascinated by all things neuroscience and psychology and attempts to psychoanalyze her peers whenever she can. She is currently participating in iGEM 2025 and plays violin for the Taipei City Philharmonic Orchestra. In her free time, you can spot her failing experiments in the lab, raving about dinosaurs, or crying over rom-coms. Lillian is extremely excited to meet the other USABO Finalists and step onto the mainland for the first time in 10 years.



**Eric Liu** | Ward Melville High School, NY

Eric is a sophomore at Ward Melville High School. Discovering the wonders of biology through Science Olympiad's Anatomy and Physiology event, he started USABO at the end of his freshman year. Outside of this, Eric does research with involvement in Alzheimer's at Mount Sinai. He is a member of his school's Science Olympiad and Science Bowl team. When not reading his copies of *Lamnhaj* or *Sengray* (which was the key to his success), he is either playing Albion Online with his friends or his beloved trumpet.



**Kashvi Logu** | Portola High School, CA

Kashvi Logu is a rising senior at Portola High School and is passionate about the disciplines of genetics and evolutionary biology. She is a 2-time USABO semifinalist, AIME qualifier (Young Women in Mathematics: Citadel/Citadel Securities certificate winner), and state honor pianist, winning awards at the international level. Kashvi also has conducted research at UCLA, comparing RADD levels of lung DNA damage in bats and differences in telomere attrition between species. She is a firm believer in community altruism and contributes through her positions as chairman and publicist of *Assisteens* of Irvine, founder of her city's Create for Kids chapter, and is a volunteer at the Orange County Eye Project (OCEP). She can often be found surfing at the beach, delving into ancient history, blasting music during jogs with her dog, "geeking" out over F1, and chasing her next adrenaline-filled adventure.



**Cloris Shi** | Troy High School, CA

Cloris is a graduating senior at Troy High School and a returning USABO Finalist. She has won seven medals at the National Science Olympiad Tournament and qualified three times for the AIME. Cloris is passionate about the intersections between fields and plans to pursue a mixture of biostatistics, health policy, and eco-poetry. On weekends, Cloris frequents local tide pools, runs along beach boardwalks, and sings multilingual karaoke in her car. This fall, she will be attending Harvard University.



**Bill Sun** | Seven Lakes High School, Katy, TX

Bill has finally escaped from Seven Lakes High School, Katy, TX, and will be attending MIT in the fall. As training for college, Bill recently dabbled in sleeping late, cramming for his exams, and playing lots of Ultimate Frisbee (his favorite position to play is disc handler). He also enjoys playing both cello and piano, and hopes to not crack his cello while moving to Boston. Bill is not a *furry* and is excited to play frisbee with the rest of the finalists.



**Youran Wu** | BASIS Independent Bellevue, WA

Youran (Kevin) is a freshman at BASIS Independent Bellevue. He has developed a deep appreciation of life due to his innate desire to understand how the world functions. He is especially interested in biochemistry and plant biology. Kevin co-founded his school's biology and chemistry club, and is the captain of his science bowl team. While not reading his well-worn textbooks, he enjoys hiking on local trails and photographing local plants for *iNaturalist*. He also frequently interacts with his colonies of Madagascar hissing cockroaches and Dubia cockroaches. Kevin is often noted for his remarkable affinity for *Wikipedia*, and he highly enjoys reading and editing its many biology-related articles.





**Evan Xiang** | Shady Side Academy Senior School, PA

Evan is a Junior who attends Shady Side Academy Senior School. While Evan once wished to work in the famed Lockheed Martin SkunkWorks Program, he has grown to appreciate a world full of biology. Evan enjoys learning about the intricacies of our world, from the math behind ecological dynamics to the microscale pathways that govern life, leading him to conduct research on signal pathways in the lens. He is also an United States Earth Science Organization (USES) Finalist, a 5-time SciOly National Medalist, and International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Grand Prize Winner. Evan enjoys giving back to his beloved SciOly community, writing more than thirty tests for invitational, regional, and state tournaments. To relax, Evan enjoys reading *Lamnhaj's Biology of Priapulids*, acting as a connoisseur of frog hats, visiting water-themed attractions, and sleeping (semi-occasionally).



**Selena Yang** | Lynbrook High, CA

Selena Yang is a graduating senior at Lynbrook High School and a rising freshman at MIT. She is super excited and grateful to be able to return to USABO Finals this year. In the future, Selena hopes to pursue a mix of public health, computational biology, and bioengineering. She also dabbles in journalism, pressing red buttons, losing thumb wars, and baking (and eating) sweet treats. Selena would not be here without her amazingly cute bunny Mo (short for osmosis), and she is grateful evermore to her parents, friends, lab mentors, teachers, little sister, and teammates for all their support.



**Michael Zhang** | The Bolles School, FL

Michael explores how neuroscience, mental health, physical wellness, and ethics converge to maximize life enjoyment. He conducts neuroscience research and volunteers through the Mayo Clinic, while also investigating AI applications in medicine. At school, he leads the Pre-Med Society and is Honor Council Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council. He proudly holds the distinction of 3-time Varsity Tennis State Semifinalist and Most Valuable Player. He is co-designing a science-based mental health app expressed through colorful, gamified pixel art. When free, Michael snoozes, watches YouTube, and cooks up a feast. He attributes his biology passion to his amazing teacher Dr. Halloran and really cool looking diagrams.