

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Block Yeshiva Student Wins Annual Jerusalem Science Contest**

*Chicago Hosts 4th Annual Jerusalem Science Contest*

March 15, 2007, [Chicago, IL/New York, NY/St Louis, MO] – Adam Ariel of Block Yeshiva in St. Louis has won First Prize in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerusalem Science Contest, 2007 – Chidon HaMada HaYerushalmi, 5767 held in Chicago last week. Second prize went to Yair Saperstein of the DRS Yeshiva HS in Woodmere, N.Y.

Nineteen high school juniors and seniors from around the country competed. The contest is a joint project sponsored by the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) ([www.jct.ac.il](http://www.jct.ac.il)) and Integrated DNA Technologies, Inc. ([www.idtdna.com](http://www.idtdna.com)) to foster excellence in scientific pursuits together with dedication to Torah studies and support of Israel.

The winner received a four-year scholarship to JCT in Jerusalem and \$1,000 in cash. The second place finalist also received \$1,000 and both finalists and five additional top-scoring students all won a 10-day trip to Israel in early June. The remaining twelve won cash prizes commensurate with their final scores.

Participants follow an arduous four-month schedule of study, lectures and tests to achieve mastery in the contest's annual theme (This year - astronomy). In addition to an introductory college level course in the science, the students augment their studies with a related Judaic curriculum (New Moon conjunction and Age of the Universe issues).

The contest concluded on March 5<sup>th</sup> with a public verbal examination at Integrated DNA's auditorium in Skokie, IL. In addition to the general public, professionals in science and education packed the room to question, judge and enjoy the lively and erudite responses offered by the contestants to difficult problems posed in Astronomy and Judaism.

After open greetings by Dr. Yosef Walder, president and CEO of Integrated DNA, the contestants were verbally quizzed by the community's best minds in science and religion. After a short recess for refreshments and tally the final scores, the winners were announced and the assembly addressed by Rabbi Moshe Kinderlehrer, Executive Vice President of Friends of JCT in America. Dr. Gerald Schroeder, world-famous physicist and author of Torah and science books called live from Jerusalem to congratulate the participants and address the crowd. The festivities concluded with the prayer for the State of Israel. MC of the evening was Rabbi Heschel Weiner, Integrated DNA's Director of educational outreach and administrator of the contest.

This year's contestants represented a range of participating U.S. high schools and nine states coast to coast. All Jewish high schools are invited to participate in this one of a kind Torah and Science contest for eleventh and twelfth graders.

For more information and participation information, contact Rabbi Heschel Weiner at 847-745-1687 or email [mroberson@idtdna.com](mailto:mroberson@idtdna.com). See also [www.walderlab.org](http://www.walderlab.org) for brochure and study materials.

### **About The Jerusalem College of Technology**

The Jerusalem College of Technology is Israel's foremost institute of higher learning dedicated both to the development of high technology, scientific research and Torah study. JCT's alumni are represented in all areas and levels of Israel's professional, governmental and religious sectors.

### **About Integrated DNA Technologies**

Integrated DNA Technologies, Inc. is the world's foremost supplier of DNA, RNA and associated products that fuel genetic research globally.



Rabbi Heschel Weiner, Adam Ariel, Rabbi Moshe Kinderlehrer, Dr. Yosef Walder



Rabbi Heschel Weiner, Yair Saperstein, Rabbi Moshe Kinderlehrer, Dr. Yosef Walder



Twelve participants who came to final verbal round