



University of Auckland student wins place at international symposium

University of Auckland student Zoe Wilson, who is studying for a PhD in organic chemistry, has been selected to attend the 39th St Gallen Symposium in Switzerland.

She is one of 200 international students across a range of disciplines invited to attend the symposium, from more than 1,000 essay entries received. Zoe's winning essay "Can a researcher be an island?" highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration between scientists.

The symposium, from 7-9 May 2009 at the University of St Gallen, brings together international decision makers in business, academia, politics and society, with outstanding students and members of the media. It aims to promote the sustained success of companies and societies in a globalised world.

Professor Margaret Brimble, a renowned University of Auckland researcher and Zoe's postgraduate supervisor, says "Zoe won her place at the symposium through tough competition, and it is a tribute to her that New Zealand will be represented at this prestigious international forum. It is an excellent opportunity for her to interact with scientists and policy makers at an international level."

Zoe, who comes from Warkworth, specialises in medicinal chemistry. Her PhD involves attempting to synthesise a naturally-occurring chemical that has promising activity against ovarian cancer cells in laboratory tests. She is supported by a University of Auckland PhD scholarship and the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery.

Notes

St Gallen Symposium, 7-9 May 2009, St Gallen, Switzerland

The annual St Gallen Symposium is billed as the world's leading platform for dialogue on key issues in management, the entrepreneurial environment and the interfaces between business, politics and civil society. www.stgallen-symposium.org

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