



January 13, 2008

MALVERNE HIGH SCHOOL

Cancer research

A team of sophomores at Malverne Senior High School have begun to meet weekly with researchers from Stony Brook University to investigate nuclear-factor kappa B, a protein involved in the development of several types of cancer. As part of the project, students are creating 3-D models to determine how the protein is modified by different drugs.

"When it comes to science, it's important for students to interact with professionals," said Charles Vessalico, a research teacher at Malverne. "A lot of the work is computer-based, so the kids really eat that stuff up."

The six-student team - called SMART (Students Modeling a Research Topic) - began working in October and will continue its research until the end of the school year, Vessalico said. At that time, they expect to present their findings at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair, an annual high school competition hosted by Intel.

The students are Ursula Enwere, Max Henry, Akua Boakye-Yiadom, Jenelle Hanson, Uwa Eweka and Beatrice Pana. Stony Brook researchers are Jenny Williams and Joan Kiely.