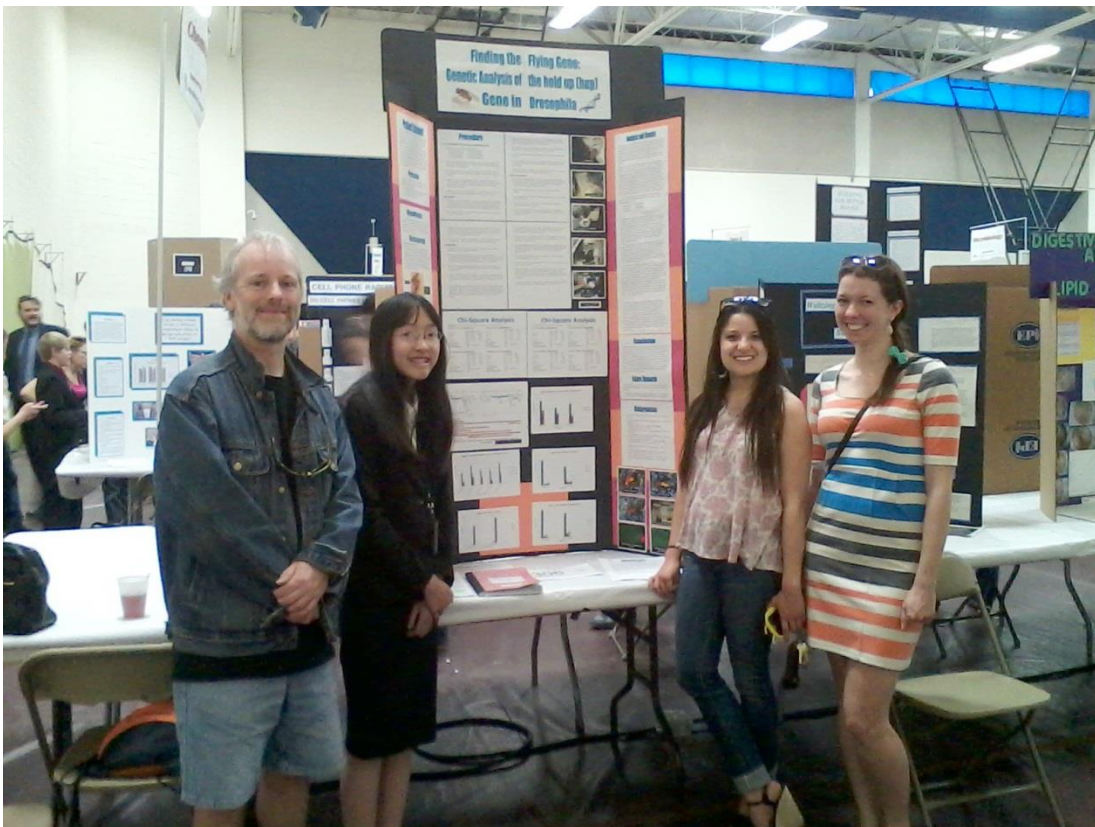


## Cripps' Mentee Places First at the Central New Mexico Science & Engineering Research Challenge

Ms. Lien Tang, a 14-year-old Eisenhower Middle School student, and a current mentee of Dr. Richard Cripps, placed first in the “Cellular and Molecular Biology” category and placed second in the Regional Research Top Junior Division Award in the “Life Science” arena at the Central New Mexico Science & Engineering Research Challenge that was held in the UNM’s Johnson Center last week. The title of her project was *Finding the Flying Gene: Genetic Analysis of the holdup (hup) Gene in Drosophila*. When asked how she became interested in science, she stated that school was an influence and that her cousin, who is in medical school, showed her science articles. According to her parents, because this was her first time entering this event, Lien did not expect to win an award and was surprised when she received top honors for her work. Her parents were very pleased and stated that much of Lien’s success is due to Dr. Cripps’s guidance and mentorship.

Lien visits the Cripps lab twice a week and works on experiments under his direct supervision. She also interacts and trains with graduate students. Lien plans to attend the New Mexico Science & Engineering Fair at New Mexico Tech on April 5, 2014.



From left to right: Dr. Richard Cripps, Ms. Lien Tang, Ms. Tonya Brunetti and Ms. Elizabeth Clarke.