

Seventh Grader awarded the Discovery Young Scientist Award

April 2, 2007



Joplin, MO – Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School, Junior Haley Daus won First Place in Biology at the Missouri Academy of Science competition with her project "Countering the Dermatological Defects in Mice Protected Against Adiposity". Daus got mice that had been genetically altered and as a result the mice could not metabolize lipids (fat). This means that no matter what their diet, they stay thin. The down side is that these mice have skin and hair/fur problems as well as eye problems due to little to no lipids. The skin is scaly, they scratch a lot (to the point of bleeding) and their eyes are crusted - almost shut. Haley's project included a specialized diet to counter the effects of the missing gene. She went to State last weekend and competed in the biology division and received a "1" rating and was chosen out of 12 to compete in the finals. She did not win the final but did win the John Paul Morris award for young women in science.