



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ‘CSI -STYLE’ BIOLOGY TEACHER
RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

October 3, 2006 – Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO and Hart Sera, Principal, for Gray Academy of Jewish Education and the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education are proud to announce that Dr. Sheppy Coodin is the recipient of the prestigious *Biogen Idec Teaching Excellence Award*.

As part of National Biotechnology Week, Dr. Sheppy Coodin, a biology teacher at Gray Academy, was recognized at a luncheon with the highest national award for his innovative work in the classroom, and in launching BioTrek – a Canada-wide program designed to peek the interest of high school students in the rapidly expanding field of biotechnology.

Larry Flynn, Regional Director, Public Health Agency of Canada, provided the keynote address in front of a capacity crowd at the Fort Garry Hotel.

Dr. Coodin’s first place in the *BIOTECCanada – Biogen Idec Teaching Excellence Award* includes a \$5,000 cash prize to be divided equally between himself and Gray Academy. The first place win is based on his new and exciting approach to bringing biotech to the next generation of Manitoba and Canadian scientists.

Sheppy Coodin took to the podium with an eloquent acceptance speech thanking his parents, Kayla and Fischel, for their life long love of learning and their enthusiasm for science, and his wife, Naomi, who’s helped coordinate many aspects of the program including registering all of the students across Canada.

“Biotechnology is such an exciting science, and it has been wonderful for me to have the opportunity to introduce my students at Gray Academy and the students in the BioTrek program to this emerging field. The future for today’s students in biotech is very bright. So much world-class research in biotech is happening here in Canada. As well, we have a vibrant and expanding biotech sector,” Dr. Coodin said.

Dr. Coodin teaches grade 7 Science, grade 11 and 12 Biology, Advanced Placement Biology, and “Science and Religion” course in Judaic Studies for grades 9 and 10.

In addressing the audience, Peter Brenders, President of BIOTECanada, emphasized the award was started last year to inspire the young Canadian leaders of tomorrow.

David Rubenfeld, a grade 11 student at Gray Academy, is currently taking Dr. Coodin’s grade 12 Biology and says Dr. Coodin “knows how to relate it to us, he puts it into perspective, he’s a good people person, a good communicator and an awesome juggler!”

Michael Benarroch, President of the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, congratulates Dr. Sheppy Coodin on his incredible achievements and national recognition.

Gray Academy of Jewish Education is a JK-Grade 12 university preparatory school that places equal value on Jewish and General academic programs, and provides opportunities to nurture the emotional well-being and spiritual development of all students.

Recently accredited by the Canadian Educational Standards Institute (CESI), Gray Academy is one of three schools in Winnipeg to receive this distinctive honour.

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