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Contact: Bruce Oldaker  
+44-776-630-8062 (until 26 July)  
845-531-2236 (after 26 July)



## USA TEAM TIES FOR THIRD POSITION AT 19th INTERNATIONAL YOUNG PHYSICISTS' TOURNAMENT (Phillip Schwartz, Anna Doud, Kunal Nayyar, Daniel Kerr, and Janus China)

The USAYPT International Team tied for third place, earning bronze medals, at the IYPT 2006 Tournament, held 5-12 July in Bratislava, Slovakia. The IYPT is a theoretical and experimental research-based team competition that attracted over 300 high school students and coaches from 24 countries. The Croatians are the 2006 IYPT Champions after defeating Germany and Korea in today's Finals.

Representing the United States are five outstanding students – two from the Wildwood School in Los Angeles, California, and three from Rye Country Day School in Westchester County, New York. The USA Team members include Wildwood School 2006 graduate and Team Captain **Phillip Schwartz** of Los Angeles and senior **Daniel Kerr** of Santa Monica, as well as three seniors from Rye Country Day School: **Janus China** of Purchase, New York, **Anna Doud** of Larchmont, New York, and **Kunal Nayyar** of Stamford, Connecticut. The US International Team coaches are Dr. Tengiz Bibilashvili of Wildwood School, Dr. Bruce Oldaker and Dr. David Hinman of Rye Country Day School, and Dr. Hugh Haskell of the North Carolina School for Science and Mathematics in Durham, North Carolina.

The competition requires each national team to research 17 challenging physics problems for one year and then present and defend their findings at the international tournament in five preliminary rounds of structured competition called "Physics Fights." Direct, oral critique is applied to each offered solution, as team members challenge their opponents and defend their own analyses. The top three teams compete in a single Physics Fight in the Finals, with the Champion determined by their score in this single Fight, and the second place awards going to the other two teams.

During the Tournament, the USA team competed directly against teams from Germany, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine, Korea, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Mexico, Brazil, and Hungary. The US Team achieved a 2nd Round Score of 47.8 (the 2nd highest in USAYPT history) when the US Captain, Phillip Schwartz, presented his solution to Problem #14 Cellular Materials "Investigate the behavior of a stream of fluid when it strikes the surface of a sponge-like material." The stirring Round Five Physics Fight between Germany and the USA involved the three-time IYPT German star, Igor Gotlibovitch, who opposed the USA's Janus China on Janus' solution to Problem #2 Shades "If small non-transparent objects are illuminated with light, patterns in the shadows are observed. What information can be obtained about these objects using these patterns?" Germany narrowly edged the USA 46.8 to 45.2 for the Round. The German star would go on to present his solution to the same problem in the Finals.

### **About the International Young Physicists' Tournament**

Complete details, regulations, and links to previous tournaments are found on the IYPT are at the website: [www.iypt.org](http://www.iypt.org).

Complete details, results, and information for the 20<sup>th</sup> IYPT are at the website: <http://www.iypt.ko> held in Incheon, Korea, 5-12 July 2007. The 2007 Problems will be released by 1 September 2006.

### **About the United States Association for Young Physicists Tournament**

The United States Association for Young Physicists Tournament (USAYPT) promotes the IYPT methodology in US high school physics programs as well as supervises the selection and preparation of the US team for the IYPT. Physics teachers and schools across the US are encouraged to join the USAYPT. Website: [www.usaypt.org](http://www.usaypt.org). The USA International Team Selection Tournament and National Young Physicists Tournament will be held at the North Carolina School for Science and Mathematics, Durham, North Carolina on 9-10 February 2007.

Contact:

Dr. Hugh Haskell (President, USAYPT)  
North Carolina School for Science and Mathematics  
1219 Broad Street  
Durham, NC 27705  
Phone: 919-414-8470  
E-Mail: [hhaskell@usaypt.org](mailto:hhaskell@usaypt.org)

Mr. Don Franklin (Vice President, USAYPT)  
Saint Johns Country Day School  
3100 Doctors Lake Dr.  
Orange Park, FL 32073  
Phone: 904-264-9572  
E-Mail: [dfranklin@usaypt.org](mailto:dfranklin@usaypt.org)

Dr. Bruce Oldaker (Secretary, USAYPT)  
Rye Country Day School  
Cedar Street  
Rye, NY 10512  
Phone: 914-925-4626  
E-Mail: [boldaker@usaypt.org](mailto:boldaker@usaypt.org)

Dr. Tengiz Bibilashvili (Head Coach, USAYPT)  
Wildwood School  
11811 Olympic Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
Phone: 818-943-7803  
E-Mail: [tbibilashvili@wildwood.org](mailto:tbibilashvili@wildwood.org)

Dr. David Hinman (Treasurer, USAYPT)  
Rye Country Day School  
Cedar Street  
Rye, NY 10512  
Phone: 914-631-7120  
E-Mail: [dhinman@usaypt.org](mailto:dhinman@usaypt.org)