

**PRESS RELEASE
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SUPER EXPO-SCIENCES HYDRO-QUÉBEC, QUÉBEC FINAL 2026

Discover The Hydro-Québec First Prize

Spinocerebellar ataxia type 27B by Sophie Iny

Une présentation



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Québec, April 19, 2026 – At the conclusion of the 2026 edition of the Super Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec, held this weekend in collaboration with la Boite à sciences, Technoscience Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches and Université Laval, the jury awarded the highest distinction, the Hydro-Québec First Prize, to the project **Spinocerebellar ataxia type 27B** by Sophie Iny, a pre-university student. Sophie received a \$1,500 scholarship, a trophy, and a trip for two to Baie-James.

Sophie summarizes her design project as follows:

Spinocerebellar ataxia type 27B (SCA27B) is a late-onset neurodegenerative disorder causing slowly progressive gait ataxia. This study aimed to characterize functional disability progression over time and review preliminary evidence on 4-aminopyridine, a repurposed drug showing promise in some open-label studies. Use of a mobility aid as a function of age was modeled logistically from participant-level observations. The model supported overall slow disability progression. Furthermore, high proportions of participants treated with 4-aminopyridine across studies reported meaningful improvement. These findings help inform patients following a genetic diagnosis and demonstrate the need for placebo-controlled data on the effectiveness of 4-aminopyridine.

The judging committee highlighted the quality of this project, which consists of a systematic literature review with meta-analysis on a rare disease.

In addition to the Hydro-Québec First Prize, the laureate also received the following awards:

- Participation in the 2026 Canada-Wide Science Fair
- The gold medal – collegiate level from Réseau Technoscience, accompanied by a \$300 scholarship offered by Réseau Technoscience
- The Bourse Relève scientifique from Université du Québec, covering tuition fees for a bachelor's, master's or doctoral program offered at one of the Universités du Québec network institutions, at the recipient's choice.

- The University of Ottawa Award, an undergraduate research scholarship from the University of Ottawa. She will also have the opportunity to work under the guidance of experienced researchers during two summer internships.

The awards ceremony also recognized the work of many exhibitors, distributing more than \$160,000 in prizes and scholarships.

The journey continues for the 10 laureates behind the 7 projects selected at the Québec final, who will attend the Canada-Wide Science Fair, to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, from May 23 to 30, 2026.

For those wishing to watch the awards ceremony, the webcast is available on [Facebook](#) and on the [Réseau Technoscience YouTube channel](#).

Thank you to our valued partners

Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec is a program of Réseau Technoscience and its member organizations. It is made possible thanks to the support of Hydro-Québec, presenting partner. This annual science competition is financially supported by the ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie, Université Laval, host institution, Ubisoft, major partner of the network, Université de Montréal, the Fédération du personnel professionnel des universités et de la recherche (FPPU), Polytechnique Montréal, the Faculté des sciences et de génie de l'Université Laval, and Publications BLD, media partner.

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Source

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About Réseau Technoscience

With members across Québec, Réseau Technoscience's mission is to spark and nurture young people's interest in science, technology, and innovation while fostering the next generation of scientists. Each year, more than 160,000 students at the elementary, secondary, and collegiate levels are reached through its various programs: Expo-sciences, Défis technologiques, Les Débrouillards – Animations scientifiques, and Innovateurs à l'école et à la bibliothèque. Réseau Technoscience also distributes a variety of science education kits and activities for elementary and secondary schools. Its programs are financially supported by

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the ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie through the NovaScience program.

Summaries of the projects presented at the Super Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec, Québec Final 2026 are available at technoscience.ca.

Check out **the official photo album** from the event [here](#).

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