

ORION – MIRARCO JOINT RELEASE

**For immediate release
March 31, 2008**

Sudbury student presents advanced 3D project at research network event Science fair competitor collaborates with NOSM medical student

TORONTO - Haley Sanderson, a 16-year-old Lockerby Composite High School student is traveling to Toronto today to present her advanced science fair project to senior researchers and government officials.

Travelling with her parents Eric and Kim Sanderson, Haley was invited to present her project – a collaboration with a Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) student mentor to an audience that includes the Minister of Research and Innovation, the Hon. John Wilkinson, at the MaRS Collaboration Centre.

The occasion is the fifth anniversary of the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), the ultra high-speed research network that links research and education institutions across Ontario, including Laurentian University, Cambrian College, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, and several area school boards.

The project is Ms. Sanderson's submission in the EXTREME Virtual Reality (VR) Science Fair. It's a collaboration with NOSM second year student Matt Strickland, creating a model of the human brain with data from the National Alliance for Medical Image Computing (NAMIC) Centre. It involves constructing a detailed 3D model of a malformation within the brain to explore the malformation's impact on behaviour.

The audience will see Haley's work thanks to full 3D visualization technology provided by Sudbury's Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation (MIRARCO).

"We are very proud to have Haley join us to be part of our celebration," says Maxim Jean-Louis, President and CEO of Contact North/*Contact Nord*, and Chair of the Board of Directors of ORANO, which owns and operates the ORION network. "Young people represent our future and we can be confident that, thanks to talented young minds like Haley that Ontario will continue to be at the cutting edge of research and technology innovation."

MIRARCO leads the EXTREME VR Science Fair project, along with local partners, which matches students with expert mentors and engages them in fun yet challenging activities in science & engineering using large-scale virtual reality. The project is funded in part by the Government of Ontario's Youth Science and Technology Outreach Program (YSTOP).

About MIRARCO

MIRARCO is a not-for-profit R&D company owned by Laurentian University, specializing in the natural resources industry, energy and the environment. MIRARCO assists companies and municipalities of all sizes in solving problems through innovative applied research, using customized teams of scientists, engineers and University / College student researchers. www.mirarco.org. The EXTREME VR competition is supported in part by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation Youth Science and Technology Outreach Program. Learn more about the competition at <http://extremevr.mirarco.org>.

About ORION

ORION is an ultra high-speed research and education optical network that connects all of Ontario's universities, most colleges, several medical and other public research facilities and several school boards to one another and to the global grid of research and education networks. Stretching nearly 6,000 kilometres over 21 communities, ORION links over 1.3 millions students and 75,000 researchers, faculty and staff, as a critical platform supporting scientific discovery and innovation. Visit www.orion.on.ca.

- 30 -

Tamara Stoll
Communications Officer, ORION
416-507-9860 ext. 224
tamara.stoll@orion.on.ca

David Kurt
EXTREME VR Coordinator, MIRARCO
705-688-2970
dkurt@mirarco.org

Dr David Topps
Director of eLearning, Northern Ontario
School of Medicine
705-662-7283
David.topps@normed.ca