In Honor of Anurag Sodhi ACS Maryland first International Olympiad and winner of a gold medal at the 55th IChO in Switzerland

The ACS USNCO Maryland Award was established on July 25, 2023. After Our First high school student accomplished the highest honor in this prestigious chemistry competition for High School students.

Anurag Sodhi from Centennial High School was nominated twice in the years 2022 and 2023 to attend chemistry camp. He was one of 13 finalists in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) preliminary competition from the state of Maryland.

He was one of the twenty finalists in the National competition in 2023 for the second time. All states in the United States that have ACS local sections send participants to compete in the national chemistry Olympiad. The number of participants could reach up to 1600 participants nationwide and **only 20 are the winners to attend Chemistry Camp.**

Students at the Chemistry camp undertake strategies and better knowledge of chemistry to compete internationally. At the same time, these students are competing among themselves to be nominated. Only four of them are selected from this group of 20 best candidates.

The year 2023 marks the year when Anurag Sodhi makes history for the ACS Maryland Section. He was nominated to be one of the four high school students to **represent the USA internationally in the chemistry Olympiad (IChO).** His performance at the International Chemistry Olympiad was magnificent. **He won a GOLD MEDAL for USA and consequently for Maryland.** This is the first time we have had an international Olympian. In his honor the ACS Maryland Section's National Chemistry Olympiad Committee Chair, Beatrice Salazar, created this award for high students that will follow the path of Anurag Sodhi. Many students will be inspired by his triumph, and we, the ACS Maryland local section members want to be there to cheer them on and honor their accomplishments. Every student that attends Chemistry Camp and/or IChO will receive this award and a scholarly honorary gift.