

LONG ISLAND / EDUCATION

Way to Go!: Jake Nieto, of Commack



Jake Nieto recently published his second scientific research paper in PLOS One. Photo Credit: Commack School District

By Michael R. Ebert

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A Commack student's research on kidney disease has led to two articles being published in a science journal.

Jake Nieto, a senior at Commack High School, co-authored the articles after working on projects through the Angion Biomedica Corp. in Uniondale. They appeared in PLOS One, a peer-reviewed open-access journal published by the Public Library of Science.

The first piece, which ran in October 2016, described a formula for estimating the amount of cysts in a model of polycystic kidney disease. The second piece, which ran in January, described a novel method to evaluate the amount of scarring in kidneys.

"It was a humbling experience knowing the research I worked on was being shared with other well-respected members of the scientific community," said Nieto, 17, whose mentor was Angion's chief operating officer and vice president of preclinical research Prakash Narayan.

Nieto's other achievements include placing third in his category last year at both the Long Island

and New York State science and engineering fairs and participating in Stony Brook University's Simons Summer Research Program.

"He loves to solve problems, and his quest for answers drives him," Commack science teacher Richard Kurtz said.

Nieto is also president of his school's Science and Spanish honor societies and vice president of the Garden Club.

— MICHAEL R. EBERT

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