

WORLD DNA DAY ESSAY COMPETITION 2026

Medicover Genetics, Cyprus, is pleased to announce its annual World DNA Day Essay Competition for high school students aged 16–19, in celebration of World DNA Day on April 25th.

The topic of the essay is:

“Advances in Genetics Have Transformed Prenatal Care: Why Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) Matters in Low and High-Risk Pregnancies?”

The scope of this initiative is to raise awareness about the importance of DNA and its applications in prenatal medicine, emphasizing the role of Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) in modern pregnancy care.

Participation:

Eligible students who can participate in the competition are 16-19 years of age. Each essay must be written by one student.

Description of the Competition:

The World DNA Day essay competition requires the generation of an essay in the format of a blog with a maximum of 650-700 words (references are not included in the word count). Entries must be either in Greek or English. The aim of the essay is to explain the importance of Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) and the way this method has influenced modern prenatal care.

Entries are encouraged to include specific examples of genetic conditions that can be identified through NIPT and to explain how early detection can support informed decision-making, improve clinical management, and contribute to appropriate pregnancy care. Students are also invited to discuss how NIPT complements conventional prenatal screening methods and how it fits into the broader context of low and high-risk pregnancies.

The topic should be presented with clarity, avoiding complex scientific language, as the blog will be addressed directly to the general public without a scientific background. The use of images or infographics to support and enhance the blog content is also encouraged.

Please note that all valid entries may be used at a later stage on the social media of Medicover Genetics. By participating in the competition, students grant Medicover Genetics the right to publish and share the essays, or excerpts from them, on its communication channels.

Awards

Medicover Genetics will award prizes to the first- and second-best entries. The winners will be announced on the Medicover Genetics website on **25 April 2026**.

- First prize: €200
- Second prize: €100

In addition, the **ten best entries**, together with their teachers, will be invited to visit Medicover Genetics' laboratories in Cyprus. Participating schools will receive the results on **24 April 2026**.

Marking and evaluation criteria

All the entries will be marked and evaluated by a group of experts in the field of DNA and genetics from Medicover Genetics. Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

1. Accuracy and validity of the information presented (the use of references is strongly encouraged).
2. Knowledge and understanding of the topic.
3. Structure and clarity of the blog, including appropriate technical vocabulary, grammar, and syntax.

Participation Guidelines:

1. Entries must be submitted in **PDF format** and must not exceed **650–700 words** (excluding references). Students must include their full name and the name of their school in the PDF file.
2. **Biology teachers** must submit the entries via email to **scientificcommunications-cy@medicover.com**. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt.
3. The final date for submission is **16 April 2026**.
4. Entries may be submitted in **Greek or English**.

For more information or enquiries, please contact us at:

scientificcommunications-cy@medicover.com or call: **22 266 888** (Medicover Genetics reception desk, requesting connection to the Marketing and Communications Department).

About Medicover Genetics

Medicover Genetics is a leading innovator in genetic diagnostics, laboratory enablement, and clinical testing, with over 25 years of experience supporting healthcare systems worldwide. The company offers a comprehensive portfolio of genetic testing services and clinical counselling, supported by certified diagnostic products and platforms.

At the core of its offering is the proprietary Technology Transfer Platform—an end-to-end genomics solution that enables partner laboratories worldwide to perform high-precision genetic tests in-house.

Medicover Genetics' CE-marked, IVDR-certified portfolio, developed through decades of clinical and medical expertise, includes VERACITY™, a non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT), and TarCET™, a suite of clinical assays addressing hereditary cancers, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, infertility, neonatal conditions, and other critical health areas.

Driven by continuous research and development, Medicover Genetics is actively expanding into advanced areas such as liquid biopsy for therapy selection and minimal residual disease (MRD) testing. Its laboratories are CAP and ISO 15189 accredited, ISO 9001, and ISO 13485 certified, and comply with GMP and GCP, ensuring the highest quality standards.

With a presence across Europe, Asia, and Africa, Medicover Genetics collaborates closely with laboratories and clinicians to deliver scalable, high-impact genetic solutions that support personalized medicine and enable informed clinical decision-making. www.medicover-genetics.com

Medicover Genetics is part of Medicover, a leading international healthcare and diagnostic services company founded in 1995 and listed on Nasdaq Stockholm. www.medicover.com