

## **Lily Shi**

Rising Senior, The Harker School, San Jose, CA

### **Autobiography:**

Hi! I'm Lily Shi, a rising senior at The Harker School in San Jose, California.

My interest in artificial intelligence began in middle school, when I joined my school's research program and attempted to build a cancer classification model. I've always been drawn to solving complex problems, and AI research felt like the ultimate puzzle: how could abstract lines of code perform tasks as profound as detecting diseases and saving lives?

Over the past three years, that curiosity has grown into a passion for AI in medicine. I became especially intrigued by the AI "black box" problem: how can we trust models if we don't understand how they make decisions? This question has driven several of my projects focused on developing explainable deep learning models that offer human-interpretable justifications for their medical diagnoses. I've presented this work at ISEF and international conferences, where I began to see its real-world potential. I also collaborated with researchers at UC Santa Cruz on a deep learning project forecasting ECG signals, which was presented at an IEEE conference.

This summer, I'm continuing my research as a Non-Trivial Research Fellow and a research intern at a Harvard AI lab. Alongside my research, I've enjoyed working with a nonprofit that offers AI education to professionals in non-technical fields, helping bridge the gap between AI and traditional industries and empowering people to apply these tools meaningfully.

I'm incredibly honored to be part of the US team competing at IOAI this year, and I'm excited to meet students from around the world who share this passion!

When I'm not staring at a neural network, I love trying new restaurants, taking my dog on long walks, running, dancing competitively, and managing my school's online news publication as its Co-Editor-in-Chief.