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TIRELESS HUNTER OF CURES & KIDS

RITA DELFINER. *New York Post*. New York, N.Y.: Aug 10, 2004. pg. 018

Abstract (Document Summary)

"It comes back to trying to address people issues," said [DEREK TAN Chemist], who heads a research lab at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and also serves as an advisory board member to the Manhattan office of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

The lab the Harvard Ph.D. began two years ago "is trying to find molecules that we can use as tools to study cancer biology and to identify new therapeutic targets for treating cancer in a more selective fashion," Tan said.

Full Text (251 words)

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Derek Tan, a 31-year-old organic chemist who has been part of the campaign to help missing children since he was a teenager, lives by a simple formula.

"It comes back to trying to address people issues," said Tan, who heads a research lab at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and also serves as an advisory board member to the Manhattan office of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

"He is always thinking of other people, trying to better their world," said cancer-center colleague Rhoda Brophy, who nominated Tan for a Liberty "Community" Medal.

The lab the Harvard Ph.D. began two years ago "is trying to find molecules that we can use as tools to study cancer biology and to identify new therapeutic targets for treating cancer in a more selective fashion," Tan said.

It was as a high-school student in upstate Rochester that he first became



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interested in helping find missing kids and preventing child abduction and sexual exploitation.

His hockey coach's wife had gone to school with John Walsh - who became host of "America's Most Wanted" after his son, Adam, was abducted and murdered in Florida in 1981.

"It's an issue that resonates with anyone, regardless of whether or not you have your own children," said Tan, who is single.

"Our biggest push is to build up the office in Manhattan so that we can reach families in NYC so they can educate their children on how to be safe," he said.

[Illustration]

DEREK TAN Chemist and advocate.

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People: Chemist, DEREK TAN

Section: *News*

Text Word Count 251

Document URL:



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