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DDCF Announces the Nine Pairs of Medical Students and Scientists Winning Grants to Forge Strong Relationships Through Clinical Research Projects

NEW YORK, NY, April 28, 2016 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced the nine new teams of medical students and previously DDCF-funded clinical scientists who have each won an award of \$70,400 to conduct research on a key biomedical issue. This funding comes through the foundation’s Clinical Research Mentorships grants program, which aims to strengthen the pipeline of clinical researchers in medicine by fostering personal, one-to-one mentoring relationships between well-established scientists and medical students. Three of this year’s mentors have now received this award multiple times, demonstrating their dedication to educating and advising the next generation in the field.

Each team is comprised of a medical student interested in becoming a future clinical investigator paired with an experienced clinical investigator who has previously received DDCF recognition and funding. Each student will take a year out from medical school to participate in a full-time clinical research project with his or her mentor.

“With these awards, we hope to encourage medical students to get caught up in the excitement of clinical research,” said Betsy Myers, program director for the Medical Research Program. “Each student and mentor had to submit a research proposal as a team, and the applications were rigorously reviewed. The foundation is delighted to be supporting such outstanding research projects.”

Since 2013, DDCF has awarded 40 Clinical Research Mentorship grants totaling \$2,642,400. Please see the second page for a full list of the research teams.

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people’s lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke’s properties. The foundation’s Medical Research Program supports clinical research that advances the translation of biomedical discoveries into new preventions, diagnoses and treatments for human diseases. To learn more about the program, visit www.ddcf.org.

2016 CLINICAL RESEARCH MENTORSHIP AWARDEES

Mentee: **Tej D. Azad**, Stanford University
Mentor: **Maximilian Diehn, M.D., Ph.D.**, Stanford University
2010 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Project: *Development of a Liquid Biopsy for Pediatric Sarcomas*

Mentee: **Victoria S. Bird**, Case Western Reserve University
Mentor: **Charis Eng, M.D., Ph.D.**, Cleveland Clinic
2002 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award
Project: *The Microbiome in Individuals with PTEN Germline Mutations*

Mentee: **Hannah Hill**, University of Michigan Medical School
Mentor: **Santhi K. Ganesh, M.D.**, University of Michigan
2013 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Project: *Finding Genes for Arterial Dysplasia*

Mentee: **Olivia L. Hulme**, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Mentor: **Steven A. Lubitz, M.D., M.P.H.**, Massachusetts General Hospital
2014 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Project: *Predicting Atrial Fibrillation to Inhibit Stroke and Embolism*

Mentee: **Jessica M. Moore**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Mentor: **Dorry L. Segev, M.D., Ph.D.**, Johns Hopkins University
2008 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Project: *Improving Patient Education and Informed Consent in Live Kidney Donation Through Creation of an Interactive, Patient-Centered Web Resource*

Mentee: **Joanne Soo**, Duke University School of Medicine
Mentor: **Arash Ash Alizadeh, M.D., Ph.D.**, Stanford University
2011 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Project: *Personalization of Cancer Therapy Utilizing Circulating Tumor DNA as Biomarkers*

Mentee: **Christopher E. L. Toote II**, Duke University School of Medicine
Mentor: **Sallie R. Permar, M.D., Ph.D.**, Duke University
2010 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Project: *The B Cell Repertoire and Antibody Maturation Elicited by Adjuvanted HIV Envelope Vaccines in Infants*

Mentee: **Jennifer M. Tymon**, Loyola of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine
Mentor: **Russell E. Ware, M.D., Ph.D.**, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
2010 Innovations in Clinical Research Award
Project: *Effects of Hydroxyurea Treatment on Transcranial Doppler Velocities and Stroke Risk in Children with Sickle Cell Anemia*

Mentee: **Timothy Wong**, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Mentor: **Volney Sheen, M.D., Ph.D.**, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
2007 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Project: *The Role of Vesicle Trafficking in Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome: A Predictive Biomarker*