



Kristin Roth-Schrefer, Communications Director
kschrefer@ddcf.org / 212.974.7003

Nina Chung, Communications Associate
nchung@ddcf.org / 212.974.7006

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Announces More Than \$1.3 Million in Funding to Support Mentored Clinical Research Projects

NEW YORK, N.Y., June 13, 2017 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced the medical students whose clinical research projects will receive more than \$1.3 million in funding through its Clinical Research Mentorship and International Clinical Research Fellowship programs. Both programs aim to strengthen the clinical research field by providing funding for mentored research opportunities that help advance the professional trajectories of medical students interested in careers as physician scientists.

“With this funding, we aim to encourage promising medical students in their pursuit of clinical research careers,” said Betsy Myers, director for medical research at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. “We are proud to support these mentored research projects, which hold the potential to make profound contributions to the biomedical sciences. We hope that these experiences will help ignite a lifelong passion for clinical research for these new investigators.”

The **Clinical Research Mentorship** program supports the development of a mentoring relationship between a DDCF-funded clinical scientist and a medical student who is interested in becoming a future clinician investigator. Ten teams of medical students and investigators previously funded through other DDCF grants will receive \$70,400 each for projects which have already met the high standards of peer review. The students will take a year out of medical school to participate in their respective full-time clinical research experiences. See page two for a full list of the Clinical Research Mentorship teams and their project titles.

The **International Clinical Research Fellowship** program provides fellowships for U.S.-based medical students to take a year out from school to conduct mentored clinical research in developing countries. The program is administered through six U.S. medical schools with programs in global health research. Each school offers three to five fellowships per year and is responsible for overseeing the selection of fellows and providing the mentored research experience. See page three for a full list of the participating medical schools and this year’s 18 International Clinical Research Fellows.

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.

2017 CLINICAL RESEARCH MENTORSHIP AWARDEES

Mentee: **Mina D. Aziz**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Mentor: **James L. M. Ferrara, M.D.**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, *2002 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awardee*

Project: *Early Plasma Biomarkers to Predict Severe GVHD in URM Patients*

Mentee: **Alex Chaitoff**, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University

Mentor: **Michael B. Rothberg, M.D., M.P.H.**, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, *2006 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*

Project: *Understanding the Scope and Efficacy of Opioid Treatment of Chronic Pain In Primary Care*

Mentee: **Karina Covarrubias**, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Mentor: **Dorry L. Segev, M.D. Ph.D.**, Johns Hopkins University, *2008 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*
Project: *Survival Benefit of Incompatible Live Donor Kidney Transplantation under the New KAS*

Mentee: **Melissa E. Day**, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Mentor: **Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., M.P.H.**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, *1999 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*

Project: *The Biological Correlates of Vaso-Occlusive Pain Associated with Menstruation in Sickle Cell Disease: A Feasibility Study*

Mentee: **Victor Ekuta**, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine

Mentor: **Volney Sheen, M.D., Ph.D.**, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, *2007 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*

Project: *The role of vesicle trafficking in Alzheimer's disease: development of exosome biomarkers*

Mentee: **Ashley A. Hardeman**, University of Illinois at Chicago

Mentor: **Olufunmilayo I. Olopade, M.D.**, University of Chicago, *2000 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*

Project: *Functional Analysis of SNPs associated with Estrogen Receptor Negative Breast Cancer using CRISPR-Cas9 Technology*

Mentee: **Eliza D. Hompe**, Duke University School of Medicine

Mentor: **Sallie R. Permar, M.D., Ph.D.**, Duke University, *2010 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*

Project: *Defining the anti-viral impact and potential efficacy of HIV-1 envelope vaccination of HIV-infected pregnant women to eliminate mother-to-child transmission*

Mentee: **Jennifer Varner**, Duke University School of Medicine

Mentor: **Rasheed A. Gbadegesin, M.D.**, Duke University, *2009 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*
Project: *Genetics of childhood nephrotic syndrome*

Mentee: **Elizabeth Y. Wang**, University of California San Francisco

Mentor: **Steven A. Lubitz, M.D., M.P.H.**, Massachusetts General Hospital, *2014 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*

Project: *Atrial Fibrillation Precipitants and Long-term Morbidity*

Mentee: **James Yu**, Brown University

Mentor: **Wael F. Asaad, M.D., Ph.D.**, Brown University, *2014 Clinical Scientist Development Awardee*

Project: *iOS Tactile System in Parkinson's Disease: Quantifying Progression of Motor Dysfunction through Integration of Touch Technology*

2017 INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

(Listed by medical institution)

Duke University School of Medicine and Duke Global Health Institute

- **Emma Fixsen**
School of matriculation: Duke University School of Medicine
- **Temitope Gfaar**
School of matriculation: Duke University School of Medicine
- **Casey Silver**
School of matriculation: University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Harvard Medical School

- **Clayton Buback**
School of matriculation: University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
- **Rumbidzai Mushavi**
School of matriculation: Harvard Medical School
- **Brittany Powell**
School of matriculation: Stanford University School of Medicine
- **Meghal Shah**
School of matriculation: The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

University of California San Francisco School of Medicine

- **Afker Daniel**
School of matriculation: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- **Blake Snyder**
School of matriculation: University of Colorado School of Medicine
- **Christine Zachek**
School of matriculation: University of California San Francisco School of Medicine

University of Minnesota Medical School

- **James Leathers**
School of matriculation: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- **Alexander Rowan**
School of matriculation: Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University
- **Ali Sawani**
School of matriculation: University of Central Florida College of Medicine
- **Lye-Yeng Wong**
School of matriculation: Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine

- **Stephanie Allen**
School of matriculation: Baylor College of Medicine
- **Leela Chockalingam**
School of matriculation: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- **Thomas Fitzpatrick**
School of matriculation: University of Washington School of Medicine
- **Katherine Li**
School of matriculation: Weill Cornell Medical College
- **Kristen Sessions**
School of matriculation: Mayo Medical School Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Yale University School of Medicine

- **Claudia Gambrah-Sampaney**
School of matriculation: Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
- **Alisse Hannaford**
School of matriculation: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- **Jamie Lim**
School of matriculation: Boston University School of Medicine