



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Medical Research Program

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Awards \$11.1 Million to Support a New Cohort of Distinguished Clinical Researchers and the Continuation of Three Outstanding Mentoring Programs

New York, NY, December 6, 2006 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation today announced the results of its sixth Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award (DCSA) competition. Seven outstanding mid-career physician-scientists have been selected to receive grants totaling \$10.5 million. The foundation also selected three former recipients of the DCSA to receive grants totaling \$600,000 for the continuation of their outstanding mentoring programs. (A list of all awardees is attached.)

Each 2006 DCSA recipient will be awarded \$1.5 million to use over five to seven years to support the translation of the latest scientific advances into clinical applications that will improve human health. They will work in areas as diverse as cancer, diabetes, infectious disease, kidney disease and heart failure. At least one-third of the award must be used each year to train and mentor junior clinical investigators.

U.S. nonprofit medical research institutions were invited to nominate two investigators who have demonstrated leadership, a history of excellence in translational clinical research, and a long-term commitment to research. Panels of expert clinical researchers reviewed 65 nomination packages and invited 29 nominees to submit research proposals. After reviewing the full proposals and interviewing finalists, the expert reviewers recommended seven individuals for 2006 DCSAs. Including the new grants, the foundation has awarded 34 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awards since 1999 totaling \$55.8 million.

“Opportunities are greater than ever to translate basic discoveries into the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of disease. We are extremely pleased to be able to support another group of outstanding physician-scientists devoted to this goal not only through their research, but also through their mentoring activities,” said Joan E. Spero, president of the foundation.

In the context of the DCSA program, a mentor is an advisor who takes a special interest in junior members of his/her research group or department and works to develop those individuals into successful clinical investigators. Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awards enable grantees not only to advise their mentees but also to provide financial support to reduce their mentees’ clinical responsibilities and protect their research time.

This year, with some of the first DCSA grantees approaching the end of their grant periods, the foundation decided to provide a limited number of continuation grants of up to \$200,000 to

support exceptional mentoring or research projects of past DCSA recipients. Proposals were solicited by staff and reviewed by members of the Medical Research Program's Scientific Advisory Council. Three former awardees were selected to receive continuation grants to support their mentoring programs.

Since 1998, the foundation's Medical Research Program has committed approximately \$150 million to strengthen and support clinical research. The foundation anticipates that its next Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award competition will be held in 2008. To learn more about the Medical Research Program or to receive competition announcements, visit www.ddcf.org/mrp.

Established in 1996, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation seeks to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, wildlife conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.

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Doris Duke 2006 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awardees

David M. Altshuler, MD, PhD
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
Project: Discovery and Clinical Application Type 2 Diabetes Genes

Friedhelm Hildebrandt, MD
University of Michigan
Project: New Treatment of Childhood Genetic Kidney Disease

William G. Kaelin, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Project: Translational Studies Based on Tumor Suppressor Proteins

Elizabeth M. McNally, MD, PhD
University of Chicago
Project: Epigenetics and Genetics of Heart Failure

Christopher V. Plowe, MD, MPH
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Project: Antigenic Diversity and Malaria Efficacy

David A. Relman, MD
Stanford University
Project: Microbial Ecology of the Human Intestinal Tract

Joyce Slingerland, MD, PhD
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Project: Molecular Therapies for Hormone Resistant Breast Cancer

Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist Continuation Grant Recipients

Olufunmilayo I. Olopade, MD

2000 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awardee

University of Chicago

Project: Translational Research Career Development Program for Physician Scientists

- Dr. Olopade will support a Translational Research Career Development Program at the University of Chicago, which will foster the careers of clinical fellows and young faculty members in hematology/oncology and support a summer internship program for high school and college students.

Robert Siliciano, MD

2001 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awardee

Johns Hopkins University

Project: Bench to Bedside Training in HIV Therapeutics

- Dr. Siliciano will continue a novel mentoring program at Johns Hopkins developed during his DCSA grant, which provides medical students and infectious disease fellows with training in bench-to-bedside research in HIV therapeutics. This integrated program provides trainees with exposure to patient care in the HIV clinic under seasoned clinicians as well as direct involvement in laboratory work on HIV drug resistance under Dr. Siliciano.

Bruce D. Walker, MD

1999 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awardee

Massachusetts General Hospital

Project: Capacitating Research in Africa

- Dr. Walker will continue training Ph.D. candidates and postdoctoral fellows at the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute in Durban, South Africa, who are focusing on the AIDS and tuberculosis epidemics in South Africa. In addition, he will provide fellowships for African trainees to come to the United States and participate in summer training courses at the Harvard School of Public Health.