



DORIS DUKE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE

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Medical Research Program

## **The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Announces Appointment of Elizabeth (Betsy) Myers to Program Director for Medical Research**

**New York** – Following a national search, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation today announced the appointment of Betsy Myers, PhD, as Program Director for Medical Research. Ms. Myers has been a member of the foundation’s staff since 2005, most recently in the position of Senior Program Officer.

“We are delighted that Betsy will be leading the Medical Research Program,” said Ed Henry, president of the foundation. “She brings a wealth of experience and passion to her work, which will serve the research field, the foundation, and our grantees superbly. Betsy is eager to accelerate the evolution of the program in response to changing needs and opportunities within the medical research arena.”

Ms. Myers joined the foundation in 2005 following a number of academic appointments including Associate Professor, Weill Medical College of Cornell University; Associate Scientist, Hospital for Special Surgery; and Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School. A principal investigator and co-investigator on grants from the National Institutes of Health, private foundations, and industry, Ms. Myers conducted translational clinical research investigating osteoporosis, risk factors for fracture, non-invasive imaging techniques, bone adaptation, and fracture healing.

Following a BS in Zoology from Duke University, Ms. Myers earned a PhD and MS in Biomechanical Engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and completed post-graduate study in Epidemiology at Tufts University.

As Program Director for Medical Research at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ms. Myers will be responsible for leading all grant-making activities of the foundation’s Medical Research Program. The program’s mission is to advance the translation of biomedical discoveries into new treatments, preventions and cures for human diseases by strengthening and supporting clinical research. Since 1998, the program has approved close to \$200 million in grants. The program has the following strategic objectives: to develop the careers of physician-scientists who will be future leaders in clinical research; and to expand the frontiers of clinical research by supporting innovative research.

*The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has supported medical research through the following:*

**Clinical Research Fellowship for Medical Students**

Medical students supported by the Clinical Research Fellowship program experience clinical research firsthand through a program that combines a mentored research experience and didactic training. Students at any US medical school can apply for the fellowship at one of 12 participating medical schools. To date the program has supported a total of 837 fellows.

**Clinical Scientist Development Award**

The Clinical Scientist Development Award supports physician-scientists as they make the transition to an independent research career. Currently this award provides \$486,000 over three years to support physician-scientists during this critical stage of career development. In the past decade, the foundation has granted 170 awards totaling approximately \$72 million to junior physician-scientists.

**Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award**

The Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award recognizes outstanding mid-career physician-scientists who are conducting clinical research. It provides \$1.5 million over five years to support clinical research and mentoring activities to develop the next generation of clinical investigators. To date, 40 awards totaling more than \$65 million have been granted.

**Clinical Interfaces Award Program**

This program supports collaborations between researchers in clinical research and other scientific disciplines to address issues in human health and disease that require a multidisciplinary approach. Since 2003, the foundation has awarded four full grants (of up to \$2.25 million each) and five planning grants (of \$80,000 each) for a total commitment of \$9 million.

**Innovation in Clinical Research Award**

This award intends to catalyze innovative breakthroughs and cross-disciplinary collaborations in targeted areas of clinical research. Since 2000, 49 awards totaling \$12 million have supported innovative clinical research in cardiovascular disease, stroke, blood disorders, sickle cell disease, and diagnostics and therapeutic monitoring of AIDS in resource-poor countries.

*The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation ([www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org)) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child abuse, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The foundation's assets currently total approximately \$1.5 billion, and it has distributed approximately \$1 billion in grants since 1997.*