



For Immediate Release

Contact: Joanne M. Bonaminio, NREF

847.378.0541

jmb@aans.org

Ezequiel D. Goldschmidt, MD, PhD, Selected as 2020 Van Wagenen Fellow

February 11, 2019 (Rolling Meadows, Ill.) – The William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship Selection Committee has announced Ezequiel D. Goldschmidt, MD, PhD, as the recipient of the 2020-21 William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship. Dr. Goldschmidt, a resident in neurosurgery at University of Pittsburgh, will commence his Van Wagenen fellowship in July 2020.

Dr. Goldschmidt will spend his fellowship year at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, under the supervision and mentorship of Jens Hjerling-leffler, PhD. He will pursue the research topic of “Recreating neuroplasticity via a cortico-cortico trans-pial bypass.”



“I am deeply honored and grateful to be awarded the Van Wagenen Fellowship,” Dr. Goldschmidt said. “As the 2019 Van Wagenen Fellow, I plan to obtain a broad-based foundation in the genomics, neurophysiology and axonal tracking techniques currently applied to study neuroplasticity in animals. I will apply single cell m-RNA sequencing to study a potentially novel way to induce brain connectivity and better understand the gyrification process. During the fellowship period, the main focus of my research will deal with the possibility of inducing transcortical neuroplasticity in the auditory and somatosensory cortex of ferrets. I will also study, at a single-cell level, the genetic basis for gyrification and functional differentiation of gyri in the mammalian brain.”

“I will use this opportunity to learn from world-renowned neuroscientists and set the grounds for a long-term partnership with The Karolinska Institute. I look forward to spending one year in Sweden and applying what I will learn as I start my career in the United States.”

The Van Wagenen Fellowship offers post-residency study in a foreign country for a period of 12 months. The William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship was established by the estate of Dr. Van Wagenen, who was one of the founders and the first President of the Harvey Cushing Society, now the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). The Van Wagenen Fellowship provides freedom in scientific development without the restrictive limitations usually imposed by many research grants and fellowships.

For more information on the Van Wagenen Fellowship opportunity or other Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) grant programs, contact Kathleen McMichael at 847.378.0535 or kam@aans.org.

To support similar research and educational programs, consider a donation to the NREF, www.nref.org/Donate.

###

About AANS

Founded in 1931 as the Harvey Cushing Society, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) is a scientific and educational association with more than 11,000 members worldwide. The AANS is dedicated to

advancing the specialty of neurological surgery in order to provide the highest quality of neurosurgical care to the public. Fellows of the AANS are board-certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the Mexican Council of Neurological Surgery, A.C. Neurosurgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the spinal column, spinal cord, brain, nervous system and peripheral nerves. For more information, visit www.AANS.org.

About the NREF

The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1980 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) to support research and education efforts that enhance and confirm the critical role neurosurgeons play in improving lives.

The NREF is dedicated to providing education to neurosurgeons at all stages of their careers, as well as funding research into new and existing neurosurgical treatments, in order to identify links between best practices and improved outcomes in patient care. Through voluntary public donations, corporate support, and donations from allied groups, the NREF supports endeavors that impact the lives of those suffering from epilepsy, stroke, brain tumors, spinal disorders, sports-related head injuries, lower back pain and Parkinson's disease.

For more information about NREF, visit www.nref.org.