



For Immediate Release

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NREF Awards 2019 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships

(May 8, 2018 - Rolling Meadows, IL) - The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 2019 recipients of the NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships.

With ongoing support from Aaron Cohen-Gadol, MD, FAANS of royalties from the sale of the COHENT™ Bipolar Forceps from Kirwan Surgical Products to the Medical Student Summer Research Fund at the NREF, the Foundation was able to award 25 medical student fellowships this year.

“Since 2016, Dr. Cohen-Gadol’s generosity has made it possible for the NREF to continue offering the kind of leading-edge training that helps launch research careers and ultimately advances patient care,” says NREF Chair, Regis W. Haid, Jr., MD, FAANS.

The Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship (MSSRF) program offers fellowships in the amount of \$2,500 to medical students in the United States or Canada who have completed one or more years of medical school, and wish to spend a summer working in a neurosurgical laboratory, mentored by a neurosurgical investigator sponsor who is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS).

Annually, these fellowships go to the brightest and most dedicated students, whose research projects are aimed at the better understanding, treatment, and prevention of neurological disorders and improved patient care. “As an AANS Director-at-Large and NREF Cushing Circle member, I believe in the NREF mission to support research and educational endeavors, in particular with students who represent the future of our specialty,” says Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol.

“Dr. Cohen-Gadol’s generosity demonstrates how one donor’s contributions can provide meaningful and impactful support for a program. He sets a terrific example for others to follow,” says Michael W. Groff, MD, FAANS, NREF Vice Chair and Development Committee Chair.

The NREF is pleased to announce that the following individuals have been awarded a 2019 Aaron Cohen-Gadol Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship:

- **Jeff Ehresman, BS**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- **Sricharan Gopakumar**, MD Anderson Cancer Center
- **Arbaz Momin**, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute
- **Oluwaposi Omiwade**, University of California-San Diego
- **Ryan Sandarage**, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

The following individuals have been awarded a 2019 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship:

- **Albert Alan**, University of Arizona
- **Marcelle Altshuler**, National Institute of Health
- **Omar Awan**, University of Florida

- **Kinsey Barhorst**, University of Cincinnati
- **Hriday Bhambhvani**, Stanford University
- **Rahul Bussa**, Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University
- **Long Di, BS**, University of Miami
- **Jeffrey Curran Henson, MS, BS**, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)
- **Samantha Hoffman**, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- **Gabrielle Johnson, BA**, Washington University in St. Louis
- **Dennis Lee**, University of California, Davis School of Medicine
- **Seung Jin Lee**, David Geffen School of Medicine (UCLA)
- **Elliott Orloff**, Keck School of Medicine-University of Southern California
- **Christine Park**, Duke University
- **Shashank Patil**, University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Keyan Alexander Peterson, MS, MBA**, Wake Forest School of Medicine
- **Shannon Catherine Shipley**, The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; The Presbyterian Medical Center of Philadelphia; The Veteran's Administration Medical Center
- **Aly Al-Amyr Valliani, BA**, Mount Sinai Health System
- **Mark Zaki, BS, BA**, Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Mary Zhu**, University of Toronto/St. Michael's Hospital

The online grant application portal for the 2020 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships will open November 1, 2019. For information about all NREF Grants and Awards, please contact Kathleen McMichael at (847) 378-0535 or kam@nref.org.

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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, please visit www.nref.org.

About Kirwan

Kirwan Surgical Products LLC is dedicated to creating and developing superior products for demanding microsurgical specialties such as neurosurgery, ophthalmology, ear, nose and throat, plastic and reconstructive surgery, and orthopaedic surgery. Our mission is to provide innovative high quality products at competitive prices. We continue to be an innovator in the field of electrosurgery, and hold a number of patents on groundbreaking product designs and manufacturing techniques associated with the field. For information about the *COHEN™ Bipolar Forceps* from Kirwan Surgical Products, please visit <http://www.ksp.com/our-products/disposable-bipolar-forceps/cohen-bipolar-forceps.aspx>