



For Immediate Release

Contact: Cathy Powers, NREF

(847) 378-0540

cmp@nref.org

The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation Announces the Recipients of the 2018-2019 Research Grant-Young Clinician Investigator Awards

(April 9, 2018 - Rolling Meadows, IL) – The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) is pleased to announce this year’s recipients of the Foundation’s Research Grant-Young Clinician Investigator Awards.

“This year, the NREF was able to award more research grants than we have in several years, thanks to the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and partner organizations. We continue to receive applications from some of the most promising researchers in the country and the research proposals submitted make us optimistic for the future of neurosurgery,” stated Ennio A. Chiocca, MD, PhD, FAANS, NREF Education Advisory Committee Chair.

As the premier funder of neurosurgical studies, the Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation provides funding for studies in basic, translational and patient-oriented clinical research for investigators in North America through two neurosurgical research grant programs annually.

Open to residents only, the **NREF Research Grant** provides training for neurosurgeons who are preparing for academic careers as clinician investigators. Applicants must be physicians who have been accepted into, or who are currently in approved residency training programs in neurological surgery in North America.

The **NREF Young Clinician Investigator Award** supports junior faculty who are pursuing careers as clinical investigators. Applicants must be neurosurgeons, no more than two years from the end of their clinical training, who are full-time faculty in North American teaching institutions.

The 2018-2019 Research Grant and Young Clinician Investigator Award recipients are:

Stephano Chang, MD, University of Miami

Award: NREF & Medtronic 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Multi-target neurostimulation to recover locomotion in a large animal model of contusive spinal cord injury

Sponsor: James Guest, MD, PhD

Bryan Choi, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital

Award: NREF & B*CURED 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell Therapy for Glioblastoma

Sponsor: Bob Carter, MD, PhD, FAANS

Domenico A. Gattozzi, MD, University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute (KUMCRI)

Award: L. Nelson "Nick" Hopkins NREF 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant jointly sponsored by Arvind Ahuja, MD, FAANS, and the AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section

Project Title: Comparative Use of Human Umbilical Cord Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells and their Exosome Derivatives for Functional Improvement after Induced Ischemic Stroke: a Springboard for Translational Studies

Sponsor: Randolph J. Nudo, PhD

Benjamin L. Grannan, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital

Award: NREF & American Academy of Neurological Surgery 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Studying the neural encoding of social interaction in the primate amygdala using a game theory task

Sponsor: Ziv Williams, MD, FAANS

Ammar H. Hawasli MD, PhD, Washington University

Award: NREF/Bagan Family Fellowship 2018-2019 Young Clinician Investigator Award

Project Title: Evaluation of the Human Cortical Connectome as a Biomarker of Spinal Cord Injury

Sponsor: Wilson Z. Ray, MD, FAANS

Teddy Kim, MD, Wake Forest School of Medicine

Award: Andrew T. Parsa Research Fellowship 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: VSV-LASV as oncolytic virus therapy for glioblastoma

Sponsor: Douglas Lyles, PhD

Bornali Kundu, MD, University of Utah

Award: NREF and AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma & Critical Care 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Spreading depolarizations in subdural hematoma

Sponsors: Kevin C. Brennan, MD & John D. Rolston MD, PhD

Stefan Lang, MD, University of Calgary

Award: NREF & AANS/CNS Section on Tumors 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Facilitating pre-operative sensori-motor network plasticity with non-invasive brain stimulation and prehabilitation in patients with diffuse glioma: a multimodal TMS/TDCS/fMRI study

Sponsor: John Kelly, PhD, MD

Whitney E. Parker, MD, PhD, Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University

Award: NREF and AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: The Role of Novel NMDA Receptor Variants in Human Brain Development and Epilepsy

Sponsor: M. Elizabeth Ross, MD, PhD

Michael Safaee, MD, University of California, San Francisco

Award: American Academy of Neurological Surgery 2018-19 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Molecular targeting of CD97 as a therapeutic approach for glioblastoma

Sponsor: Manish Aghi, MD, PhD, FAANS

Brian J. A. Gill, MD, Columbia University

Award: NREF & American Academy of Neurological Surgery 2018-19 Young Clinician Investigator Award

Project Title: Electrophysiological Properties of the Peritumoral Region in a Slice Model Glioma Associated Seizures

Sponsor: Guy M. McKhann II, MD, FAANS

Anthony Wang, MD, University of California, Los Angeles

Award: NREF & Kate Carney Family 2018-19 Young Clinician Investigator Award

Project Title: Characterization of cerebral arteriovenous malformations and their surrounding astrocytes

Sponsor: Linda Liau, MD, PhD, MBA, FAANS

The NREF is responsible for review and approval of grant applications and awards grants based upon established fellowship program criteria and the needs of the requesting hospital and/or academic institution. The NREF Education Advisory Committee was established to review and approve fellowship grant applications in an independent, unbiased manner. The committee is comprised of neurosurgeons who do not receive financial or other support from the medical device industry. Individuals serving on the committee are volunteers and do not receive compensation from the NREF for their efforts.

For more information about the Research Grant-Young Clinician Investigator Awards and all other NREF Grants and Awards, please contact Cathy Powers at (847) 378-0540 or cmp@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.