



For Immediate Release

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Royalty Donations Fund NREF Medical Student Research Fellowships

(**April 24, 2017 - Rolling Meadows, IL**) - The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 2017 recipients of the NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships.

Thanks to a generous contribution from Aaron Cohen-Gadol, MD, FAANS of royalties from the sale of the COHEN™ Bipolar Forceps from Kirwan Surgical Products to the Medical Student Summer Research Fund at the NREF, the Foundation was able to increase the number of fellowships awarded in 2017. 25 medical students will receive an award in 2017.

“Dr. Cohen-Gadol’s ongoing generosity allows the NREF to continue offering leading-edge training for neurosurgeons at all stages of their careers, and fund basic science and clinical research which helps launch research careers and 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 two 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. “These students are the key to the future of neurosurgery, and I look forward to many years of working with the NREF to support their mission to support research and education efforts that enhance and confirm the critical role neurosurgeons play in improving lives,” says Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol.

The NREF is pleased to announce that the following individuals have been awarded a 2017 Aaron Cohen-Gadol Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship:

- Dustin Roberts, University of California Los Angeles
- Mounica Reddy Paturu, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
- Jason K. Karimy, Yale University
- Erin Nicole D'Agostino, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- Ali Jamal, University of Saskatchewan

The following individuals have been awarded a 2017 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship:

- Akop Seksenyan, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Vivek Sudhakar, University of California San Francisco
- Iyan Younus, Weill Cornell Medical College
- Nicholas Goel, University of Pennsylvania
- Huy Tram N. Nguyen, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health
- Yongsoo Peter Joo, University of Rochester
- Ben (Jiahe) Gu, Presbyterian Medical Center of Philadelphia and Veteran's Administration Medical Center
- Ali Karim Ahmed, The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and The Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Felicia Sun, Stanford University School of Medicine
- Connor Berlin, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- Fabiha Rahman, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- Elliot Neal, University of South Florida
- Breydan Hawkins Wright, Washington University
- Faranak Dayani Dardashti, UCSF School of Medicine
- David J. McCarthy, University of Miami
- Samuel Daly, University of Minnesota Medical School
- Brian Christian Kaszuba, Albany Medical College
- Raghav Gupta, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Harvard Medical School
- John Ta-Hsiang Tsiang, Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- David Daniel, George Washington University School of Medicine

“Dr. Cohen-Gadol’s commitment not only sets a terrific example for others to follow, but allows us to further harness the power of donor support, and build on the upward momentum of the Foundation,” says Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS, NREF Vice Chair.

The online grant application portal for 2018 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships will open in Fall 2017.

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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.

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>