



For Immediate Release

Contact: Cathy Powers, NREF
(847) 378-0540
cmp@nref.org

Honor Your Mentor Fund and Royalty Donations Support Record-Setting Number of NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships

(June 1, 2018 - Rolling Meadows, IL) - The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 2018 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 award a record-setting 27 medical student fellowships in 2018.

“Dr. Cohen-Gadol’s ongoing generosity allows 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 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,” says Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol.

“Dr. Cohen-Gadol’s commitment sets a terrific example for others to follow, and allows the NREF to further harness the power of donor support, and build on the upward momentum of the Foundation,” 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 2018 Aaron Cohen-Gadol Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship:

- Arjun R. Adapa, University of Michigan
- Ayodamola Otun, Washington University School of Medicine
- Kobina Mensah-Brown, University of Pennsylvania
- Alexa Semonche, BA, University of Miami
- Olindi Wijesekera, Mayo Clinic Florida

The following individuals have been awarded a 2018 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship:

- Pranish A. Kantak, MPH, University of Texas - Southwestern Medical Center
- Prasanth Romiyio, University of California, Los Angeles
- Jordan Matthew Spatz, PhD, University of California San Francisco
- Sharon Abada, MPH, Washington University

- Melissa Yuan, Weill Cornell Medicine
- Andrew M. Miller, BS, University of California San Francisco
- Benjamin Hopkins, Northwestern University
- Adam Lauko, Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- Morgan Lee, University of Southern California
- Shivani Baisiwala, Northwestern University
- Cole Rinehart, University of Pennsylvania
- Sheantel Reihl, University of California, San Francisco
- Edith Yuan, University of Southern California
- Hetshree Joshi (H.BSc), University Health Network
- Whi Inh Shirley Bae, University of California, Los Angeles
- Austin B. Carpenter MS, MMS, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Casey Jarvis, University of Southern California
- Jason Anthony Liew, Johns Hopkins University
- Eli Johnson, Stanford University School of Medicine
- Marissa D’Souza, Stanford Medical Center

Thanks to generous donations to the Albert L. Rhoton “Honor Your Mentor” Fund, the NREF was able to award additional fellowships to two outstanding medical students.

The 2018 Rhoton Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships have been awarded to:

- Sricharan Gopakumar, Baylor University
- Brian F. Jimenez, University of Tennessee

“The quality of the research proposals submitted this year make us optimistic for the future, and donor support of the Rhoton Fund will advance the specialty by lighting the path for the next generation of neurosurgeons serving as faithful stewards of Dr. Rhoton’s legacy,” says NREF Board Member Emeritus, Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS.

The Albert L. Rhoton, Jr. Fund was established to support the maintenance and future development of *The Rhoton Collection*®, and to provide funding for micro neuroanatomical research grants and fellowships. Access to the [Rhoton Collection](#)® - an online repository of Dr. Rhoton’s legendary teaching materials – is free to all visitors to the site. To make a donation that will preserve the great legacy of Dr. Rhoton, please visit the [Albert L. Rhoton Honor Your Mentor](#) page or forward your check to NREF, 7661 Eagle Way, Chicago, IL 60678-1076, designating the Albert L. Rhoton Honor Your Mentor Fund.

The online grant application portal for the 2019 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships will open November 1, 2018. For information about all 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.

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>