



**For Immediate Release**

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## **NREF and Albert L. Rhoton Fund Name 2018-19 Award Recipients**

**(June 4, 2018 - Rolling Meadows, IL)** – The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) is pleased to announce this year’s recipients of the 2018 **Rhoton Young Clinician Investigator Award for Neuroanatomical Research** and the **Rhoton Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships**.

“Thanks to generous donations to the [Albert L. Rhoton “Honor Your Mentor” Fund](#), we are able to award grants to one of the most promising researchers in the country, as well as two outstanding medical students,” said Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS, NREF Board Member Emeritus and Fund Manager for the Albert L. Rhoton Honor Your Mentor Fund.

The 2018 **Rhoton Young Clinician Investigator Award for Neuroanatomical Research** has been awarded to Maria Peris-Celda, MD, PhD. Dr. Peris-Celda is a former fellow of Prof. Rhoton (2011-13) and is currently completing a clinical Skull Base fellowship with Michael J. Link, MD, FAANS, at Mayo Clinic.

The \$40,000 Rhoton award to Dr. Peris-Celda will help fund a new dissection laboratory at the Neuroscience Institute at Albany Medical College in Albany, NY, where with Dr. Alan Boulos will serve as the faculty sponsor for her research.

According to Dr. Peris-Celda, “This emerging laboratory in Albany, NY aims to follow the same principles of Prof. Rhoton’s. As part of the neurosurgical community - and especially as a former fellow of Prof. Rhoton - I am committed to continuing his legacy in some way. Prof. Rhoton was always supportive of this initiative as he always was of his fellows’ work. My main objective is to keep his philosophy and teaching alive through new research and by adding new material to the Rhoton Collection®.”

The **2018 Rhoton Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships** have been awarded to Sricharan Gopakumar of Baylor University and Brian F. Jimenez of the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Gopakumar will be mentored by Franco DeMonte, MD, FAANS, and Shaan M. Raza, MD, FAANS, of the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, on a project centered on microanatomy and approaches to the infratemporal fossa. Mr. Jimenez will be mentored by Jeffrey Sorenson, MD, FAANS, at Semmes-Murphey in Memphis, TN, on a research project in microsurgical anatomy and surgical approaches.

“The quality of the research proposals submitted this year make us optimistic for the future. Support of the Rhoton Fund will help advance the specialty by lighting the path for the next generation of neurosurgeons,” said NREF Chair, Regis W. Haid, Jr., MD, FAANS, “and the NREF is committed to continue as faithful stewards of Dr. Rhoton’s legacy.”

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.

For more information about NREF Grants and Awards, please contact Cathy Powers at (847) 378-0540 or [cmp@nref.org](mailto: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](http://www.nref.org).