



For Immediate Release

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The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation Announces Recipients of 2019-2020 Research Grant and Young Clinician Investigator Awards

(March 22, 2018 - Rolling Meadows, IL) – The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) is pleased to announce this year’s recipients of the Foundation’s Research Fellowship Grants and Young Clinician Investigator Awards.

“Year after year, the NREF receives applications from some of the most promising researchers in the country. The exceptional quality of the proposals submitted makes us optimistic for the future of neurosurgery. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, industry partners, and affiliated organizations who make these awards possible.” 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 2019-2020 Research Grant and Young Clinician Investigator Award recipients are:

Christian Bowers, MD, Westchester Medical Center Foundation

Award: Academy of Neurological Surgeons 2019-20 Young Clinician Investigator Award

Project Title: eICU Virtual Clinician Corrects the Discrepancies between Ordered, Charted, and Observed RASS Scores in Mechanically Ventilated ICU Patients while Resolving Day/Night RASS Discordance

Sponsor: Christian Becker, MD, PhD

Benjamin T. Himes, MD, Mayo Clinic

Award: Andrew T. Parsa 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Extracellular vesicle-mediated immunosuppression in glioblastoma

Sponsor: Ian F. Parney, MD, PhD, FAANS

Christina Jackson, MD, Johns Hopkins University

Award: B*CURED/NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: The changing neoantigen landscape and associated immune response during immune checkpoint blockade in recurrent glioblastoma: a pathway to personalized tumor immunotherapy

Sponsor: Drew Pardoll, MD, PhD

Darrin J. Lee, MD, PhD, *University of Southern California*

Award: Academy of Neurological Surgeons/NREF 2019-20 Young Clinician Investigator Award

Project Title: Septohippocampal stimulation for cognitive restoration and seizure reduction in epilepsy

Sponsor: Steven Siegel

Athar N. Malik, MD, PhD, *Massachusetts General Hospital*

Award: AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma & Critical Care & NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Development and characterization of a mouse model of midbrain compression to explore neural circuits underlying coma and consciousness

Sponsor: Naoshige Uchida, PhD

Farshad Nassiri, MD, *University of Toronto*

Award: AANS/CNS Section on Tumors & NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Establishing the prognostic implications of heterogeneity in meningioma using single-cell sequencing

Sponsor: Gelareh Zadeh, MD, PhD, FAANS

Taemin Oh, MD, *University of California, San Francisco*

Award: AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery & NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Defining Mechanisms of Immune Cell Depletion in Group 3 Medulloblastoma

Sponsor: Manish Aghi, MD, PhD, FAANS

Bhuvic Patel, MD, *Washington University*

Award: Academy of Neurological Surgeons/NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Identifying Biomarkers and Mechanisms of Radiation Resistance in Grade II Meningiomas

Sponsor: Albert H. Kim, MD, PhD, FAANS

Jennifer Sokolowski, MD, PhD, *University of Virginia*

Award: L. Nelson "Nick" Hopkins NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant jointly sponsored by Arvind Ahuja, MD, FAANS, and the AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section

Project Title: Role of the meninges and meningeal lymphatic system in the immune response after ischemic stroke

Sponsor: Yashar Kalani, MD, PhD, FAANS

Risheng Xu, MD, PhD, *Johns Hopkins University*

Award: AANS/CNS Section on Pain & NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: BVR and NRF2 as potential regulators of oxidative stress and pain in trigeminal neuralgia

Sponsor: Michael Lim, MD, FAANS

John R. Williams, MD, *University of Washington*

Award: Bagan Family Foundation & NREF 2019-20 Research Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Examination of brainstem lesions on CT following Severe TBI for prognostication of outcome

Sponsor: Christine Mac Donald

Thomas J. Wilson, MD, *Stanford University*

Award: Medtronic 2019-20 Young Clinician Investigator Award

Project Title: Deep Machine Learning and Convolutional Neural Networks for the Evaluation and Classification of Peripheral Nerve Tumors

Sponsor: Robert J. Spinner, MD, 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 Fellowship Grants and Young Clinician Investigator Awards** and all other NREF Grant and Fellowship programs, 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.