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## **DDCF Awards a Total of \$8.2M to 17 Promising Physician Scientists**

### The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's 19th Clinical Scientist Development Awards Support Junior Physician Scientists in Transitioning to Independent Clinical Research Careers

**NEW YORK, NY, July 21, 2016** – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation announced today the 17 physician scientists receiving the 2016 Clinical Scientist Development Awards of \$495,000 each over three years. These exceptional physician scientists and their research projects stood out from a pool of 169 applicants and were selected through a rigorous review process by a panel of experts in the medical research field.

The Clinical Scientist Development Award provides funding for physician scientists who are between one and five years into their first faculty appointments to support their transitions to independent research careers. Physician scientists face particular obstacles in this transition because of their need to balance a dual and sometimes competing role as both researcher and clinical care provider.<sup>1</sup> The Clinical Scientist Development Award aims to mitigate this tension by protecting and making it possible for recipients to dedicate 75 percent of their professional time to clinical research, ultimately to establish their own research programs over the long term.

“Physician scientists’ work as health care providers supplies them with invaluable insights into the study of human disease, which is why it is crucial to support them,” said Dr. Betsy Myers, program director for Medical Research at DDCF. “They often experience difficulties balancing research and clinical duties during the early stages of their careers. With the Clinical Scientist Development Awards, we hope to bolster their ability to pursue clinical research at this critical time in their careers, so that they can continue to make important contributions to the field over the long term.”

Since 1998, the foundation has awarded 253 Clinical Scientist Development Awards totaling over \$100 million. This year’s awardees are working in a broad range of key areas, from HIV studies in Africa to the use of brain imaging as a tool in understanding psychiatric disorders. One awardee, Jaehyuk Choi, will be co-funded by the [Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation](#) for his study of the role of T cell receptor signaling in T cell lymphoma. A list of all the individuals and their projects begins on page 3.

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<sup>1</sup> National Institutes of Health Physician-Scientist Workforce Working Group Report. June 2014.  
[http://acd.od.nih.gov/reports/PSW\\_Report\\_ACD\\_06042014.pdf](http://acd.od.nih.gov/reports/PSW_Report_ACD_06042014.pdf), accessed on 7/27/2015.

**About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, child well-being and medical research, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The foundation's Medical Research Program supports clinical research that advances the translation of biomedical discoveries into new preventions, diagnoses and treatments for human diseases. To learn more about the program, visit [www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org).

## 2016 CLINICAL SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT AWARDEES

### **David M. Barrett, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
*The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*  
Producing highly active lymphocytes for adoptive immunotherapy  
Disease area: Oncology

### **Jaehyuk Choi, M.D., Ph.D.**

Ruth K. Freinkel Assistant Professor of Dermatology and of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
*Northwestern University*  
Identification of the genetic basis of altered T cell receptor signaling in cutaneous T cell lymphoma  
Disease area: Oncology  
(Co-funded with Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation)

### **Elizabeth S. Egan, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
*Stanford University*  
Functional genetic characterization of a novel host determinant of Plasmodium falciparum malaria  
Disease area: Infectious diseases

### **Ragy R. Girgis, M.D., M.S.**

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry  
Columbia University Medical Center  
*Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc.*  
Dopamine Transmission in the Psychosis Prodrome: a [11C]-(+)-PHNO PET Study  
Disease area: Psychiatry

### **Yonatan Grad, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
*Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*  
Using pathogen genomics and patient data to define determinants of persistent MRSA colonization and of success of decolonization  
Disease area: Infectious diseases

### **W. Schuyler Jones, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine  
*Duke University, Duke Clinical Research Institute*  
Healthcare Disparities and Variation in Care of Patients with Peripheral Artery Disease At Risk for Lower Extremity Amputation and Poor Cardiovascular Outcomes  
Disease area: Cardiovascular diseases

### **Brian S. Kim, M.D., M.T.R.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine  
*Washington University in St. Louis*  
Neuroimmunologic Regulation of Atopic Itch  
Disease area: Immunology

### **Joshua W. Knowles, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine  
*Stanford University*  
Statin-associated diabetes: Identifying risk factors and physiologic mechanisms  
Disease area: Cardiovascular diseases

**Lynn T. Matthews, M.D., M.P.H.**

Assistant Professor

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

Adherence to periconception HIV risk-reduction among HIV-exposed uninfected women in rural Uganda

Disease area: Infectious diseases

**Shana E. McCormack, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

*The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

A randomized clinical trial of intranasal oxytocin to promote weight loss in children and adolescents with hypothalamic obesity syndrome

Disease areas: Endocrinology and metabolic diseases

**Mitesh S. Patel, M.D., M.S.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine

*University Of Pennsylvania*

Using Social Incentives and Patient-Generated Health Data to Change Health Behaviors and Improve Glycemic Control Among Type 2 Diabetics

Disease areas: Endocrinology and metabolic diseases

**Dan J. Raz, M.D.**

Assistant Professor

*City of Hope*

Effect of DNA demethylation therapy on the Wnt pathway in lung cancer stem cells

Disease area: Oncology

**Chetan Seshadri, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Infectious Disease

Member, Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (CERID)

*University of Washington*

T Cell Memory to Mycobacterial Lipids

Disease area: Infectious diseases

**Adam M. Spivak, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

*University of Utah*

Protein Kinase C as a Target for Reactivation of Latent HIV-1

Disease area: Infectious diseases

**Sriram Venneti, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

*University of Michigan*

Defining the epigenetic landscape of pediatric posterior fossa ependymomas

Disease area: Oncology

**Arun P. Wiita, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

*UC San Francisco*

Taking it to the Next Level: Measuring and Modeling Effects of Inter-Individual Protein-Level Buffering on Phenotypic Penetrance for DNA Copy Number Variants

Disease area: Genetics

**Elaine W. Yu, M.D., M.S.**

Assistant Professor

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

Skeletal Fragility and Fracture Risk after Bariatric Surgery

Disease areas: Endocrinology and metabolic diseases