17 Physician Scientists Win DDCF’s 2017 Clinical Scientist Development Awards

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Supports Junior Physician Scientists’ Careers As Clinical Researchers With Awards Totaling $8.41M Over Three Years

New York, N.Y., July 20, 2017 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced the 17 junior physician scientists receiving the 2017 Clinical Scientist Development Awards of $495,000 each over three years. Selected from a highly competitive pool of 196 applicants by a panel of experts in medical research, these scientists distinguished themselves by the rigor of their research endeavors and their commitment to future excellence as independent clinical researchers in the biomedical field. In honor of the foundation’s late Board Trustee Harry B. Demopoulos, M.D., DDCF is referring to this year’s awards as the Dr. Harry B. Demopoulos Clinical Scientist Development Awards.

“We are continually impressed by the high caliber of the Clinical Scientist Development Awardees, their research and the potential of that research to improve their patients’ lives,” said Betsy Myers, program director for medical research at DDCF. “At this crucial stage in their careers, we are proud to support them in balancing research and clinical responsibilities. We look forward to seeing both how their careers develop over the long term and their research contributes to improvements in human health.”

This year marks the 20th year since the Clinical Scientist Development Awards were first awarded. Since 1998, the foundation has awarded 288 Clinical Scientist Development Awards totaling more than $128 million to physician scientists between one and five years into their first faculty appointments and transitioning to an independent research career. The award protects and makes possible for recipients to dedicate 75 percent of their professional time to clinical research at a time when they are facing competing priorities as both researcher and clinical care provider.

The 2017 Clinical Scientist Development Awardees’ research projects span a broad range of critical biomedical issues, including the role of epigenetics in healing in diabetes; the evolution of drug resistance in certain lung cancers; novel treatments for insomnia; and more. For a list of this year’s awarded individuals and their projects, please see page 2.

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.
Andrew J. Aguirre, M.D., Ph.D.
Instructor in Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Project name: Understanding Therapeutic Efficacy and Resistance in Patients with Metastatic Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
Disease area: Oncology

Ajai A. Dandekar, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Washington
Project name: Genomic and quorum sensing adaptation of Pseudomonas aeruginosa in cystic fibrosis
Disease area: Pulmonary disease

Jennifer A. Downs, M.D., Ph.D.
Friedman Family Research Scholar in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
Weill Cornell Medicine
Project name: Longitudinal Study of the Effect of Praziquantel Treatment of Schistosoma mansoni on the Female Genital Mucosal Immune System and Microbiome
Disease area: Infectious disease

Katherine A. Gallagher, M.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Michigan
Project name: Epigenetic Regulation of Diabetic Wounds Promotes Chronic Inflammation and Prevents Healing
Disease area: Endocrinology and metabolic diseases

Aaron Hata, M.D., Ph.D.
Instructor in Medicine
Massachusetts General Hospital
Project name: Comprehensive assessment of the evolution of acquired drug resistance in EGFR mutant non-small cell lung cancer
Disease area: Oncology

Jimmy L. Holder, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Baylor College of Medicine
Project name: Systematic search for targeted therapeutic entry points for SYNGAP1 haploinsufficiency - implications for neurodevelopmental disorder therapies
Disease area: Neurology

Lori R. Holtz, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Washington University
Project name: Transmission and development of the human infant virome
Disease area: Pediatrics

Marcin Imielski, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Assistant Professor of Computational Genomics
Weill Cornell Medicine
Project name: Epigenetic landscapes of rearranged driver-negative cancers
Disease area: Oncology

Joanne M. Kahlenberg, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Michigan
Project name: A new paradigm in cutaneous lupus: dissecting the interplay between interferons and Staphylococcus aureus
Disease area: Rheumatology

Matthew S. Kayser, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
University Of Pennsylvania
Project name: Identifying biomarkers of treatment response in insomnia and depression with a metabolomics platform
Disease area: Psychiatry

Andrew A. Lane, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Project name: Therapeutic targeting of the acute myeloid leukemia stem cell
Disease area: Hematological diseases

Jaimie P. Meyer, M.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Yale University
Project name: Developing and Testing the Effect of an Integrated Patient-Centered HIV Prevention Decision Aid on PrEP Uptake among Women who use Drugs Entering Treatment
Disease area: Infectious disease

Jeniel E. Nett, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin
Project name: Impairment of Neutrophil Function by Biofilms on Medical Devices
Disease area: Infectious disease

Tiffany C. Scharschmidt, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Dermatology
University of California San Francisco
Project name: Elucidating the role of commensals in atopic dermatitis
Disease area: Immunology

Jennifer P. Stevens, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Project name: A new approach to patient safety: identifying risky clinical states to reduce preventable harms for hospitalized patients
Disease area: Critical Care/Emergency Medicine

Sara L. Van Driest, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Project name: New Approaches to Precision Dosing for Special Populations
Disease area: Pediatrics
Nicholas Walter, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine
University of Colorado
Project name: Precursor ribosomal RNA as a novel marker of treatment efficacy in tuberculosis
Disease area: Infectious disease