



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMA FOUNDATION AWARDS OUTSTANDING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

CHICAGO — The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation awarded research grants to 43 junior investigators. The Seed Grant Research Program provides medical students, residents and fellows with grants of \$2,500 for basic science or clinical research projects. The recipients are studying cardiovascular/pulmonary diseases, HIV/AIDS, neoplastic diseases and pancreatic cancer.

Many young scientists experience difficulty finding resources to support their investigations, and consequently fewer physicians are choosing careers in research. The AMA Foundation's Seed Grant Research Program aims to build crucial grant-writing and research skills in young researchers by funding projects that are applicant-conceived, rather than supporting the ongoing research of an experienced Principal Investigator.

“The AMA Foundation Seed Grant Research Program provides important financial support, motivation and professional development to outstanding investigators who are in the beginning stages of their research careers,” said AMA Foundation President Owen Garrick, MD, MBA. “Many recipients of this program go on to publish their work, present at conferences and secure larger grants to continue their research advancements.”

The 2012 recipients are:

- **Caitlin Abidin**, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
- **Zain Ahmed**, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University
- **Mitch Biermann**, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health
- **Muath Bishawi**, Stony Brook University School of Medicine
- **Amy Bussel-Cunningham**, Weill Cornell Medical College
- **Kavita Dharmarajan, MD**, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- **Melissa Elafros**, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
- **Joshua Farhadian**, New York University School of Medicine
- **Inna Grishkan**, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- **Alexander Hajduczuk**, University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry
- **Emily Heikamp**, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- **Rajan Jain, MD**, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
- **Daniel Joh**, Georgetown University School of Medicine
- **Kateena Johnson**, Morehouse School of Medicine
- **David Kantor, MD, PhD**, Children's Hospital Boston
- **Alexander Lankowski**, Boston University School of Medicine
- **Maria Lin, MD**, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
- **Yan Liu, MD, PhD**, University of Texas Southwestern at Seton Family of Hospitals
- **Vanessa Mewani**, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
- **Andrew Moore, MD**, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- **Laura Musselwhite, MPH**, Duke University School of Medicine
- **Miladys Palau Collazo, MD**, Yale New Haven Hospital
- **Dominique Pepper, MD**, University of Mississippi Medical Center
- **Trenton Place**, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine/Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

- **Jeremy Price**, Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- **Richard Price**, Ohio State University College of Medicine
- **Raghuv​eer Puttagunta**, Baylor College of Medicine
- **Marisa Ryan, MD**, Duke University Medical Center
- **Darpun Sachdev, MD**, Columbia University Medical Center
- **Annahita Sarcon**, University of California Davis School of Medicine
- **Shane Sergent**, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Eric Shin**, Indiana University School of Medicine
- **Meghan Sise, MD**, Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Heather Smith, MD, MPH**, Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program/Yale University
- **Khanh Thieu, MD**, Columbia University Medical Center-New York Presbyterian Hospital
- **Julian Tokarev**, University of Minnesota Medical School, Twin Cities Campus
- **Kristen Tropea, MD**, Children's Hospital Boston
- **Jonathan Tucci**, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
- **Wyatt Unger**, University of Arizona College of Medicine
- **Muthiah Vaduganathan**, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- **Brian Walcott, MD**, Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Aaron Wild**, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- **Xiaoyi Zhang**, Medical University of South Carolina

The AMA Foundation advances public health and medical scholarship through philanthropic support of physician-directed initiatives. Visit www.amafoundation.org.

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