



# MTF

Medical Toxicology Foundation

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013

*Our Mission: To promote the impact and value of medical toxicology in the provision of safe, high quality care.*



## Donating to Fight Opiate Drug Abuse and Misuse in Life and Beyond

Dr. Ward Donovan has dedicated his life to medical toxicology – researching it, educating others on the dangers of prescription drugs and toxins and, of course, treating those who have encountered serious issues with these substances. Now he is making sure his work in this field extends beyond his living years.

Recently, Dr. Donovan, Chief of Medical Toxicology of the PinnacleHealth System in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, endowed a \$100,000 life insurance policy to the MTF with very specific instructions – that it be used to start the Ryan Donovan Memorial Fund, and that money donated to it be channeled to stem the over-prescribing by doctors and the public misuse of opiate drugs. Dr. Donovan's son, Ryan, died in September 2007 of an accidental drug overdose of a prescription opiate he bought from a friend. He was 28 years old.

“The leading cause of accidental deaths in young adults is drug overdoses, whether accidental, abuse or misuse,” said Dr. Donovan, who is also Professor Emeritus of Emergency Medicine at Pennsylvania State University. “And right now the fastest growing cause of drug related deaths is the abuse and misuse of opiates. It is an epidemic.”

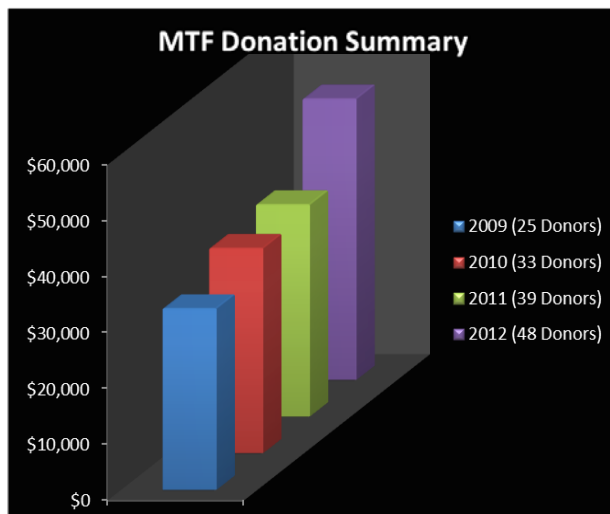
Though the funds bequeathed from his life insurance policy are for the future, his hope is that this unique gift to MTF works as seed money to inspire donations from those wishing to fight the same fight. Already two members of the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) – Dr. Charles McKay and Dr. Keith Burkhart – have contributed to this fund.

“My goal is to encourage others to invest in this fund so that we can have a national impact in the education of physicians while also stemming the public misuse of opiate drugs,” Dr. Donovan explained. “The fund is now established and I hope that someday there will be a large amount in it. This money is to allow the fund to begin to do some work. If we wait until this life insurance policy is redeemed, little can be done with this fund.”

Already Dr. Donovan has established a legacy for exceptional work in the field of medical toxicology. He credits the academic and scientific challenges of the field in addition to the need for practitioners in this area as the founding reasons for his pursuit of this specialty. Considered one of the early leaders of medical toxicology, Dr. Donovan is also past president of the ACMT. Now his pursuits in this field are more personal and more urgent.

“I want to halt the easy access to opiates by the general public,” he said. “Already there are some courses being held for physicians. That’s probably the most effective way to advance this education. The MTF does an outstanding job providing funding for those in the field of medical toxicology to learn more, do more and help more.”

*If you would like to make a donation to the Ryan Donovan Memorial Fund, please go to the MTF website at [http://www.acmt.net/medical\\_toxicology\\_foundation/](http://www.acmt.net/medical_toxicology_foundation/).*



## Make a Donation Today

The MTF goal for fundraising for 2013 is \$60,000. By meeting this goal we can provide funds to highly qualified individuals with a passion for research, outreach and continued learning in the field of toxicology.

If you would like to make a donation to help us reach this goal and advance the field of Medical Toxicology, please go to the MTF website at [http://www.acmt.net/medical\\_toxicology\\_foundation/](http://www.acmt.net/medical_toxicology_foundation/). All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

## Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy this update on the Medical Toxicology Foundation. In preparing it, I thought a lot about what medical toxicology means to me. Not only has medical toxicology afforded me the opportunity to teach thousands of physicians, care for the sickest of patients, and stretch my cognitive abilities to the limit, but it has been the platform upon which I built my academic career.

Today, I am enormously grateful for those visionary leaders who saw the need to promote the impact and value of medical toxicology in the provision of safe, high quality care and created the Medical Toxicology Foundation. Like many of you, I am often concerned about the devolution of medical education and the vulnerability of our specialty in that regard. Even though our impact on the lives of so many patients and families is enormous, our numbers are very small.

MTF, through its awards and scholarships is one very important and tangible vehicle for attracting and retaining members in our field. Now more than ever, we need your continued support to maintain excellence in medical toxicology education and research. Our future as a specialty hinges upon this.

This year's MTF goal for fundraising is \$60,000. By meeting this goal we can provide funds to highly qualified physicians with a passion for research, outreach and continued learning in the field of medical toxicology. If you would like to make a donation to help us reach this goal, please go to the MTF website at [http://www.acmt.net/medical\\_toxicology\\_foundation/](http://www.acmt.net/medical_toxicology_foundation/). All donations are tax deductible.

I thank you for your generosity and interest in Medical Toxicology.

Sincerely,

Suzanne White, MD, M.B.A.  
President, MTF



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## MTF AWARD WINNERS

### Michael P. Spadafora Medical Toxicology Travel Award

2013 – Gillian A. Beauchamp, MD  
2012 – Hallam M. Gugelmann, MD  
2011 – Travis Olives, MD  
2010 – Jared W. Pelo, MD  
2009 – Fiona M. Garlich, MD

### Travel Scholarship for Underrepresented Minority Medical Trainees

2013 – Cynthia D. Santos, MD  
2012 – Joshua M. Jauregui, MD  
2011 – Jennea A. Correia, MD

### Emergency Medicine Foundation/Medical Toxicology Foundation Joint Research Grant (Funded by EMF and MTF)

2013-14 – Jennifer Parker Cote, MD  
2012-13 – James Cao, MD

### MTF Innovative Teaching Award

2011 – Jeffrey Lapoint, DO

### MTF Practice Award

2013 – Anthony Pizon, MD

### MTF Fellow-in-Training (FIT) Research Symposium Best Presenter Award

2013 – Katherine Katzung, MD  
2013 – Matthew Zuckerman, MD  
2012 – Brian Wolk, MD

### MTF FIT Open Mic Best Presenter Award

2013 – Jennifer Carey, MD  
2012 – Vinoo Dissaynake, MD

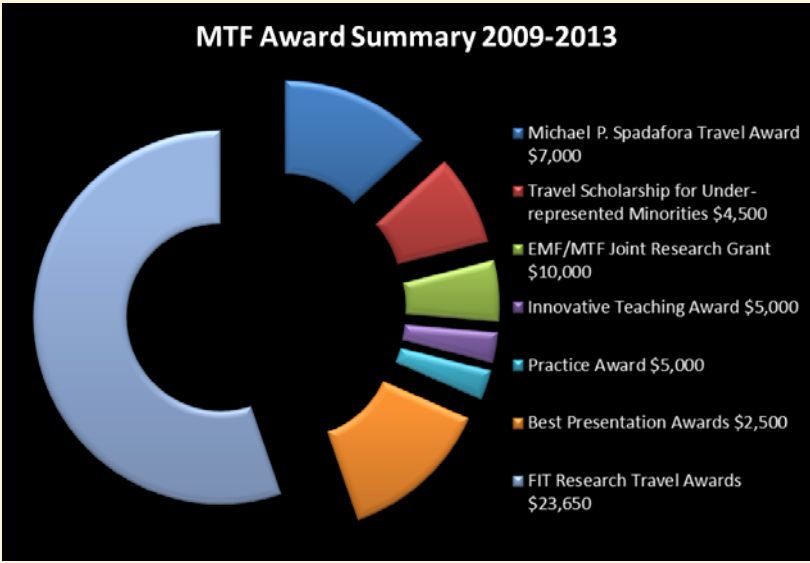
### MTF FIT Travel Awards to Annual Meeting

2012 – Michael Christian, MD; John Devlin, MD; Ben Hatten, MD; Aaron Skolnik, MD; Paul Stromberg, MD; Brian Wolk, MD.

2011 – Jeffrey Barger, DO; Joshua Canning, MD; Mae De La Calzada-Jeanlouie, DO; Robert French, MD; Harry Karydes, DO; Jean Lo, MD; Christine Murphy, MD; Joshua Nogar, MD; Evan Schwarz, MD; Brandon Warrick, MD.

2010 – Matthew Valento, MD; Shaun Carstairs, MD; Patrick Whiteley, MD; J.J. Rasimas, MD; Amit Gupta, MD.

### MTF Award Summary 2009-2013



### Physician Traces Piqued Interest in Toxicology to MTF Award



Every career has its pivotal moments. For Dr. Michael Levine, one of those times

came in 2006, when he was awarded the Medical Toxicology Foundation’s Spadafora Award. Then a resident, Dr. Levine used the funding to attend the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology conference.

“Although I was already very drawn to pursuing toxicology as a specialty, attending that conference really sealed my interest,” Dr. Levine said. “I like the clinical application of toxicology. What happens when a medication is taken in large amounts? The whole translational pharmacology aspect that allows us to see what really happens in these cases absolutely fascinates me.”

Dr. Levine completed his residency in 2008 and his Medical Toxicology Fellowship in 2010. Today, he is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, Section of Medical Toxicology at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

NAME OF AWARD	Number Given	Amount
Michael P. Spadafora Travel Award	5	\$7,000
Travel Scholarship for Underrepresented Minorities	3	\$4,500
EMT/MTF Joint Research Grant	2	\$10,000
Innovative Teaching Award	1	\$5,000
Practice Award	1	\$5,000
Best Presentation Award	5	\$2,500
FIT Research Travel Award	21	\$23,650
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$57,650</b>

Additionally, he is on staff at the Medical Toxicology Department at Banner Health and Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix.

By following his interest in medical toxicology, Dr. Levine has armed himself with in-depth knowledge that has helped vault his career and standing in the emergency medicine community. As he continues enriching his knowledge base, he said he can also see it impacting his current emergency patients and future career.

“When you are practicing emergency medicine, I believe it is very important to sub-specialize,” he said. “By specializing in toxicology, it has certainly helped to advance my career, open doors and, above all, help the patients I see.”

The funding available through the Medical Toxicology Foundation is somewhat unique but very much needed, he added.

“There are definitely not many of us who specialize in toxicology, yet it is so important,” he said. “There are not a lot of opportunities out there for funding in toxicology – whether it’s for research, travel, education or any other aspect. The Medical Toxicology Foundation is certainly one important source of this kind of funding that can provide money for research, foster interest in the field and provide scholarships.”

These steps are all important in continuing to advance the field of toxicology, which directly translates into improved care for patients and forwarding research in the field. More detailed information about the Medical Toxicology Foundation can be found on the [MTF website \(http://acmt.net/medical\\_toxicology\\_foundation\)](http://acmt.net/medical_toxicology_foundation).



## MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY

The Medical Toxicology Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization affiliated with the American College of Medical Toxicology and is intended to provide ACMT members, the general public and commercial sponsors with a tax deductible mechanism to support Medical Toxicology. Your gift to the Medical Toxicology Foundation – a 501(c)(3) educational organization – is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE **MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY FOUNDATION**; 10645 N. TATUM BLVD., SUITE 200-111; PHOENIX, AZ; 85028

- \_\_\_ Friend (\$150)
- \_\_\_ Sponsor (\$250)
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# CURRENT MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY FOUNDATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following awards are currently available for those wishing to apply:

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## MTF Innovations in Medical Toxicology Research and Education

- **The MTF Innovative Research Award.** Supports highly innovative research that could ultimately lead to critical discoveries or major advancements that accelerate the field of medical toxicology research. The Innovative Research Award promotes new ideas; therefore, proposals need not include preliminary data. However, a solid rationale for the work must be provided. Proposed work should have a high probability of success within the funding period. This program aims to provide seed funding that should lead to successful competition for additional funding beyond the pilot period. Results are to be presented at the ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting.

- **The MTF Innovative Teaching Award.** Supports the development of novel tools to provide education on relevant issues in medical toxicology, specifically, pioneering or progressive educational activities, methodologies, and/or curricula. Contemplated programs are not limited by format – the focus is on innovation in concept, technique, and/or technology. Prioritization will be given to practical end-products or educational activities that focus on the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human poisoning. The intended audience is medical professionals and/or the public. The awardee is expected to present results at the annual ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting.

- **Funding.** The MTF has allocated \$20,000 to support either innovative research or teaching. Applications will be available October 1. Requests for support of direct costs between \$5,000 and \$20,000 are due February 14, 2014. Awardees will be notified March 28, 2014 at the 2014 ASM. Applicants may request a project period of up to two years beginning July 2014.

## MTF Career Development and Travel Scholarships

(Providing funding for defined research topics and the development of careers in medical toxicology.)

- **MTF/EMF Grant for Med Toxicology Fellows and Emergency Medicine Residents.** In partnership with the Emergency Medicine Foundation, MTF co-sponsors a \$5,000 Research Grant to support Medical Toxicology fellows-in-training and Emergency Medicine residents in executing medical toxicology research. Applicants may apply for up to a total of \$5,000 for a one-year period. Both scientific review and awarding decisions will be made independent of the sponsor. Studies utilizing the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) ToxIC (Toxicology Investigators Consortium) Registry are encouraged. The 2014 awardee's abstract is to be presented at the 2015 ACEP Research Forum with the option to submit and present at the 2016 ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting. Applications are due in January each year. Please go to [http://www.acmt.net/medical\\_toxicology\\_foundation/development\\_awards.html](http://www.acmt.net/medical_toxicology_foundation/development_awards.html).

- **MTF Award on Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention.** Supports outstanding research and initiatives that have the greatest potential to reduce the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs, particularly among young people. A major goal is to support the development and/or analysis of innovative prevention, treatment, and/or harm reduction strategies. Requests for support of direct costs up to \$5,000 are due February 14, 2014. Awardees will be notified March 28, 2014 at the 2014 ACMT ASM. Applicants may request a project period of up to two years. The awardee is expected to present results at the annual ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting in 2015 or 2016.

- **Michael P. Spadafora Travel Award.** Established to encourage the pursuit of Medical Toxicology fellowship training by providing residents the opportunity to attend the ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting. Any member of an ACGME or AOA accredited residency program is eligible to receive the award. One recipient will be selected each year. Recipients receive an award of \$1,500 to cover travel expenses to the meeting. Applications are due July 15 each year. Please go to [http://www.acmt.net/medical\\_toxicology\\_foundation/development\\_awards.html](http://www.acmt.net/medical_toxicology_foundation/development_awards.html).

- **MTF Minority Student Travel Award.** Supports underrepresented minority medical trainees' attendance at the ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting. One medical student or resident will be selected annually to receive the \$1,500 travel scholarship. Applications are due July 15 each year. Please go to [http://www.acmt.net/medical\\_toxicology\\_foundation/development\\_awards.html](http://www.acmt.net/medical_toxicology_foundation/development_awards.html).