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## **The American Parkinson Disease Association Awards \$1.5 Million in Research Grants**

**NEW YORK, NY – August 16, 2017** – The American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) has awarded \$1.5 million to support cutting-edge Parkinson’s disease (PD) research via four Post-Doctoral Fellowships, 11 Research Grants, and eight APDA Centers of Advanced Research as part of its 2017-2018 funding cycle. With someone diagnosed with PD every nine minutes, this research is critical as we push for better treatments and ultimately, a cure.

The grants are awarded through a competitive application process and reviewed by APDA’s Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) which is comprised of scientists with a wide array of backgrounds and expertise in all areas relevant to PD research. The SAB meets annually to review all grant proposals and set the scientific direction of APDA’s annual research investment. Their focus is to identify researchers early in their careers and attract them to the PD field, as well as to help established investigators pursue new and novel ideas. In many cases these projects produce significant pilot data, which has enabled researchers to apply for and receive multimillion dollar research grants from the National Institutes of Health and other funding institutions.

“There is an urgent need to accelerate research and support translational ideas that have the potential to truly improve the quality of life for people living with PD,” commented David G. Standaert, MD, PhD, John N. Whitaker Professor, Chair of Neurology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine and Chairman of the SAB. “Now is a time of tremendous excitement in Parkinson’s research. The objective of the SAB is to invest in the best science that will move the field forward, to slow or cure the disease.”

APDA has been a funding partner in many of the significant Parkinson’s scientific discoveries in the last 50 years including the work of Dr. George C. Cotzias, which led to establishing the effectiveness of levodopa in treating PD; this treatment remains the gold standard in PD treatment today.

“The work being done as a result of the grants in this new funding cycle will have an incredible impact on the world of PD,” stated Leslie A. Chambers, President & CEO of APDA. “We are truly excited about the range of projects we are able to support - from neuroprotection that can slow the progress of the disease, to biomarkers which can help measure the activity of the disease, to novel ideas such as wearables and evidence-based non-medical therapies that can help improve quality of life. The questions posed by our researchers span a broad and exciting range of areas. This work is only possible because of the steadfast support of our generous APDA donors.”

**Post-Doctoral Fellowships** were awarded to support post-doctoral scientists whose research holds promise to provide new insights into pathophysiology, etiology and treatment of PD:

- Xu Hou, PhD, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL
- Md Shariful Islam, PhD, Van Andel Institute, Grand Rapids, MI
- Isabel Lam, PhD, The Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA
- An Phu Tran Nguyen, PhD, Van Andel Institute, Grand Rapids, MI

**Research Grants** were awarded to investigators affiliated with and performing PD research at major academic institutions across the United States.

- Joseph DeGutis, PhD, and Alice Cronin-Golomb, PhD, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
- Xianjun Dong, PhD, The Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
- Michael L. Gross, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
- Andreas H. Kottmann, PhD, City College of New York, New York City, NY
- Beom-Chan Lee, PhD, University of Houston, Houston, TX
- Xiaobo Mao, PhD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
- Ignacio F. Mata, PhD, Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research, Seattle, WA
- Rahul Srinivasan, PhD, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Bryan, TX
- Yulan Xiong, PhD, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- Talene Yacoubian, MD, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine, Birmingham, AL
- Tonya Zeczycki, PhD, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

**APDA Centers for Advanced Research** support large research programs which include research trainees, fellowship programs, early stage discovery programs and later stage clinical translation. These Centers facilitate research which is at the forefront of investigation into the cause, treatment and ultimately cure for PD.

- Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Medicine, Los Angeles, CA
- Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
- Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine, Birmingham, AL
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, PA
- University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA
- Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

Learn more about these grantees and the exciting work they are doing and browse all APDA-funded research by visiting [www.apdaparkinson.org/research/what-we-fund/](http://www.apdaparkinson.org/research/what-we-fund/)

The American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) is the largest grassroots network dedicated to fighting Parkinson's disease (PD) and works tirelessly to assist the more than 1 million Americans with PD live life to the fullest in the face of this chronic, neurological disorder. Founded in 1961, APDA has raised and invested more than \$170 million to provide outstanding patient services and educational programs, elevate public awareness about the disease, and support research designed to unlock the mysteries of PD and ultimately put an end to this disease. To join us in the fight against Parkinson's disease and to learn more about the support APDA provides nationally through our network of Chapters and Information & Referral (I&R) Centers, as well as our national Research Program and Centers for Advanced Research, [please visit us at www.apdaparkinson.org](http://www.apdaparkinson.org)

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