



**BRAIN ANEURYSM**  
FOUNDATION

Raising Awareness. Ending Fear.™

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## **Brain Aneurysm Foundation hosts 10th annual Research Grant Symposium in Atlanta, GA**

(Hanover, MA—September 6, 2016) The Massachusetts-based **Brain Aneurysm Foundation**, which raises awareness of and money to support research of brain aneurysms, has announced that it will award \$310,000 in grant money to eleven recipients whose research is impacting this disease that affects an estimated 30,000 people annually.

The grants will be presented on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 at the 10th annual Research Grant Symposium at the Emory Conference Center Hotel, 1615 Clifton Road, Atlanta GA 30329. Tickets are \$60 and can be reserved through the Foundation's website at [www.bafound.org](http://www.bafound.org).

Dr. Daniel L. Barrow, director of the Emory MBNA Stroke Center and a member of the Foundation's Medical Advisory Board, will be the event's speaker. Barrow also is the Pamela Rollins professor, chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery and Chief of Neurosurgery at Emory University Hospital.

All 11 grant recipients are expected to attend the conference along with past years' recipients who will provide updates on their work, along with research grant funders. Also expected will be Foundation board members, Medical Advisory Board members, brain aneurysm survivors, caregivers, those who have lost family members to brain aneurysms, members of the Emory medical community, as well as corporate sponsors.

"Seeing our supporters, leading researchers and those most affected by brain aneurysms from across the United States and Canada—all in one place makes this one of the best events of the year," said Christine Buckley, executive director of the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. "To bring together people who have raised money to fund research and give them an opportunity to meet the researchers whose work and efforts are making a positive impact on the disease is what sets us apart. Also, the researchers get a more personal connection to their work when meeting those that have raised the money and hearing their stories. It is a special thing to watch."

The 2016 Brain Aneurysm Foundation award recipients are (bolded):

Cami Clark Chair of Research, \$30,000 and Debbie Feiger Chair of Research, \$10,000 awarded to **Jinglu Ai, MD, PhD** of St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, on the role of Calpain Activation in White Matter Injury after Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

Cynthia Lynn Sherwin Chair of Research, \$20,000 awarded to **Matthew Alexander, MD**, of University of California San Francisco, on Genetic Analysis of Cardiovascular Disease and Inflammation in Individuals with Cerebral Aneurysms: Toward Propensity Scores for Predicting Development and Risk of Rupture

TeamCindy Alcatraz Chair of Research, \$20,000 awarded to **Ahmed J. Awad, MD** of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Mount Sinai Health System on the Role of Epigenetic and Genetic Variants in the Molecular Pathogenesis of Intracranial Aneurysms in Human

Northwell Health-North Shore University Hospital, Brain Aneurysm Center Chair of Research, \$30,000 awarded to **Steffen-Sebastian Bolz, MD, PhD** of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto to study a New Intervention that reduces Brain Injury Following Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

Shirley Dudek Demmer Chair of Research, \$25,000, and Fight Like Frank Chair of Research, \$15,000 awarded to **Brian L. Hoh, MD, FACS, FAHA, FAANS** of the University of Florida to investigate the Estrogen-Deficiency-IL-17 Pathway for Cerebral Aneurysm Growth and Rupture

Southern N.H. and Merrimack Valley Awareness Train Chair of Research, \$15,000 awarded to **Jesse Jones, MD**, University of California Los Angeles to study Endovascular Sympathetic Denervation for the Treatment of Vasospasm in Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

Ellie Helton Chair of Research, \$25,000 awarded to **Bijal Mehta, MD, MPH, MA** of the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center/Los Angeles Biomedical Institute to study Epigenetics of Lymphocytes from Ruptured Versus Unruptured Cerebral Aneurysm Patients

Carol W. Harvey Chair of Research, \$25,000, and Kristen's Legacy of Love for Kristen Shafer Englert Chair of Research, \$20,000 awarded to **Hui Meng, PhD**, of the State University of New York at Buffalo to investigate the Development of Blood-Based Biomarkers for Brain Aneurysm Detection: Stage III - Model Development, Validation and Transition from Neutrophil to Whole Blood

Steph and Holly Chair of Research, \$20,000 awarded to **Peter J. Morone, MD**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center to study A Cell Permeant Peptide Nanoparticle to Prevent Cerebral Vasospasm after Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

Timothy P. Susco Chair of Research, \$25,000, and the Dawn Brejcha Chair of Research, \$10,000 awarded to **Kamil W. Nowicki, MD, PhD**, University of Pittsburgh, to study Targeting Platelet Inflammatory Axis in Cerebral Aneurysm Progression and Healing

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Brain Aneurysm Institute Chair of Research, \$10,000, and Christopher C. Getch Chair of Research sponsored by the CV Section, \$10,000, awarded to **Ana-Maria Vranceanu, PhD**, Massachusetts General Hospital Prevention of Chronic Depression, Anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Patients with Brain Aneurysm and their Caregivers

#### **Brain Aneurysms by the numbers:**

- Six million people in the U.S. have a brain aneurysm, 30,000 of whom will suffer a rupture each year
- Of the 30,000, 60 percent will survive
- Of those who survive, approximately 66 percent will endure permanent neurological deficits that limit their ability to resume a normal life
- The cost of treating brain aneurysms and caring for those who have suffered a rupture nationally is in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually
- 50 percent of those who have a brain aneurysm rupture are less than 50 years old

The Foundation recently announced that two leading physicians were named to the organization's Medical Advisory Board of Directors. They are Dr. L. Fernando Gonzalez, associate professor of neurosurgery at Duke University, and Dr. Brian Jankowitz, Co-Director, Endovascular Therapy at the University of

Pittsburgh Medical Center. They join a board of more than three-dozen other doctors—neurologists, neurosurgeons, and interventional neuroradiologists—representing the best research hospitals, facilities, and universities throughout the country. The Medical Advisory Board members provide expertise and support to the Foundation in a variety of ways.

It has been a busy year for the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. The organization received national attention, including on May 11, 2016, when the Foundation led a delegation of more than six-dozen brain aneurysm survivors, family members of those affected by the disease, advocates and medical professionals from around the country for a Congressional Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. The delegation met with key legislators including Senator Edward Markey (D-MA), Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Representative Renee Ellmers (R-NC). On May 3, 2016, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation participated in the #StrokeTalk as part of National Stroke Awareness Month with the CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Director Dr. Walter Koroshetz, Million Hearts Executive Director Dr. Janet Wright, and Kaiser Permanente research scientist Dr. Mai Nguyen-Huynh. On April 21, 2016, the U.S. Senate passed by acclamation Resolution 438 naming September as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month,” which was introduced by Senators Markey and Ayotte. And on Sunday, April 21, 2016, more than 1,000 people gathered at Boston’s historic Fenway Park to participate in the 15th annual Arterial Challenge, a 5K Run and 3K Walk to fund research.

The Foundation also launched a public awareness campaign featuring a PSA titled “Pleased to Meet You” that was created by the award-winning agency, HQ Creative. Link to the PSA Link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/brainaneurysmfound>

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#### **ABOUT THE BRAIN ANEURYSM FOUNDATION**

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is the globally recognized leader in brain aneurysm awareness, education, support, advocacy and research funding. Now celebrating more than 20 years’ of service, and led by Executive Director Christine Buckley, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation was established in 1994 in Boston, Massachusetts, with a mission to promote early detection of brain aneurysms by providing knowledge and raising awareness of the signs, symptoms and risk factors; work with the medical communities to provide support networks for patients and families; as well as to further research that will improve patient outcomes and save lives. **For more information about the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, visit [www.bafound.org](http://www.bafound.org)**