Medical Student Research Day Awards  
September 9, 2016

The Borts Award (U of I Foundation Award)  
Kristin Weeks, M1G  
“Racial/Ethnic Differences in Thyroid Cancer Incidence in the US: 2007-2013”  
Mentor: Dr. Charles Lynch, Epidemiology

The Edward Heath Award (U of I Foundation Award)  
Matthew Miller, M1G  
“Identification and Characterization of Non-Coding DNA Regulatory Elements in the Zebrafish Periderm”  
Mentor: Dr. Robert Cornell, Anatomy & Cell Biology

The Melvin Marcus Clinical Research Award (U of I Foundation Award)  
Mackenzie Noonan, M2  
Dr. Steven McElroy, Pediatrics

The Margaret V. Lunsford Award for Research in Anesthesia  
Emily Weig, M2  
“Follow up study: Pulse wave velocity as a predictor for postoperative cardiac events”  
Mentor: Dr. Kenichi Ueda, Anesthesia

The Arthur A. Spector Award for Basic Biomedical Research  
Armin Avdic, M1  
“Physics-Based Protein Optimizations Determine Missing Loops and Predict Structural Consequences of Missense Variants”  
Mentor: Dr. Michael Schnieders, Biomedical Engineering

The Nicholas P. Rossi Research Award in Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Jian Chu, M2  
“A Novel Method for Extracorporeal Life Support Oxygenator Monitoring”  
Mentor: Dr. Joseph Turek, Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Kimberly Ephgrave Medical Student Research Award in Surgery  
Malia Zhan, M2  
“A Case-Control Study of Nipple-Sparing versus Skin-Sparing Mastectomy with Immediate Reconstruction: The Iowa Experience”  
Mentor: Dr. Ingrid Lizarraga, Surgery
Research Excellence in Dermatology

Leah Laageide, M2
“A Multiplex Approach to Understanding the Pathogenesis of Bullous Pemphigoid”
Mentor: Dr. Janet Fairley, Dermatology

Research Excellence in Emergency Medicine

Moneeb Akhtar, M2
“The Usage of Telemedicine for the Evaluation of Pharyngitis Compared to In-Person Physical Exams”
Mentor: Dr. Nicholas Mohr, Emergency Medicine

Excellence in Family Medicine Research

Nicoll Martins-Manhica, M2
“Increasing Focus on Communication Skills in Clinical Teaching: A pilot study”
Mentor: Dr. Marcy Rosenbaum, Family Medicine

The John Stokes Award for Research in Internal Medicine

Connor Parker, M1
“Modeling Bacterial Attachment in the Cystic Fibrosis Airway”
Mentor: Dr. Michael Welsh, Internal Medicine

Excellence in Internal Medicine Research

Alexander Novak, M1
“Autophagy Induction by Francisella tularensis”
Mentor: Dr. Lee-Ann Allen, Internal Medicine

Excellence in Internal Medicine Research

Drake Bouzek, M2
“Early lung disease exhibits bacterial-independent pathogenesis in cystic fibrosis pigs”
Dr. David Stoltz, Internal Medicine

The William Johnson Award for Research in Microbiology and Immunology

Maria Arulraja, M2
“Redefining the Target Area For Leprosy Elimination Programs Through Serological Evaluation of A Broader Definition of Leprosy Contacts”
Dr. Mary Wilson, Internal Medicine

Excellence in Basic Neuroscience Research

David Wang, M2
“CMT1B: Transfection of RT4 Schwann cells with mutant Myelin Protein Zero DNA constructs induces quantifiable unfolded protein response”
Mentor: Dr. Michael Shy, Neurology
Excellence in Clinical Neuroscience Research

**Scarlett Cao, M2**
“Evaluation of Temporal Control in Parkinson's Disease”
Mentor: Dr. Nandakumar Narayanan, Neurology

Excellence in Translational Neuroscience Research

**Julia Collison, M1**
“Cardiomyopathy in the dystroglycanopathies”
Dr. Katherine Mathews, Pediatric

Excellence for Clinical Research in Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Petra Hahn, M2**
“Preliminary Comparison of Outcomes in Low-Risk Women in Centering Pregnancy® versus Traditional Certified Nursing Midwife Prenatal Care”
Mentor: Dr. Colleen Stockdale, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology Research

**Kelsey Sheets, M2**
“Women’s Attitudes, Knowledge and Experiences with Misoprostol For Self-Induced Abortion”
Mentor: Dr. Abbey Hardy-Fairbanks, Obstetrics & Gynecology

The William E. Scott Award for Ophthalmology Research

**Morgan Bertsch, M2**
“The Utility of Magnetic Resonance Imaging in the Clinical Evaluation of Infantile Nystagmus”
Dr. Arlene Drack, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

The Thomas A. Weingeist Award for Ophthalmology Research

**Allie Simpson, M2**
“Novel Gene for Lacrimo-auriculo-dento-digital (LADD) Syndrome with Glaucoma”
Dr. John Fingert, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

The Hansjoerg E. Kolder Award for Ophthalmology Research

**Ashwin Subramani, M2**
“Detection of IIH Vision Loss: The Outer Periphery”
Dr. Michael Wall, Neurology

The Ponseti Prize in Orthopaedic Research

**Grant Young, M2**
“Cementing Constrained Liners into Secure Cementless Shells: A Minimum 15-Year Follow-Up Study”
Mentor: Dr. John J Callaghan, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation
Excellence in Orthopaedic Research

Mohammad Kotob, M2
“Correlation of Radiographic and Biomechanical Data Following Periacetabular Osteotomy”
Mentor: Dr. Michael Willey, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation

Excellence in Otolaryngology Research

Sanam Zarei, M2
“The Role of Sonic Hedgehog in Neuromuscular Development and Vestibular Functioning”
Dr. Bernd Fritzsch, Biological Sciences

The Richard G. Lynch Award in Pathology Research

Sandhya Mainali, M2
“Frequency and causes of lipemic interference on clinical laboratory assays”
Dr. Matthew Krasowski, Pathology

The Richard G. Lynch Award in Pathology Research

Robert Humble, M2
“Establishing reference intervals in laboratory testing for transgender patients”
Dr. Matthew Krasowski, Pathology

Excellence in Pediatric Basic Science Research

Colin Clark, M1G
“The NLRP3 Inflammasome as a Candidate for Pro-Inflammatory Signaling in the Fluid Percussion Mouse Model of Traumatic Brain Injury”
Mentor: Dr. Alexander Bassuk, Pediatrics

Excellence in Pediatric Clinical Research

Mateen Manshadi, M2
“Injuries in Youth Football”
Dr. Andrew Peterson, Pediatrics

Excellence in Pharmacological and Toxicological Sciences Research

Ruth Riedl, M1
“Novel Targets for Obesity: Gut Microbiota & Anaerobic Resting Metabolic Rate”
Mentor: Dr. Justin Grobe, Pharmacology

The Carl V. Gisolfi Award for Excellence in Health and Human Physiology Research

Mitchell Edwards, M1
“Role of ULK1 and ULK2 Kinase Activity in Regulation of Skeletal Muscle Autophagy”
Mentor: Dr. Vitor Lira, Health & Human Physiology
Excellence in Molecular Physiology & Biophysics Research

Noah Frydenlund, M2
“Investigating Low Dose Decitabine as a Strategy to Delay Acquired Resistance to Vemurafenib in Melanoma”
Dr. Michael Henry, Molecular Physiology & Biophysics

The George Winokur Research Award in Psychiatry

Jane Persons, M1
“Mixed State and Suicide: is the effect of mixed state on suicidal behavior more than the sum of its parts?”
Mentor: Dr. Jess Fiedorowicz, Psychiatry

The Robert G. Robinson Research Award in Psychiatry

Philip Ryan, M2
“Cortical Morphology in Children with the Gene Expansion for Huntington’s Disease”
Mentor: Dr. Peg Nopoulos, Psychiatry

The Lauretta Bender Research Award in Psychiatry

Jonathan Heinzman, M2
“GWAS and System Biology Analysis of Depressive Symptoms among the COPDGene Cohort”
Dr. Gen Shinozaki, Psychiatry

The Jason Martin, MD, Medical Student Research Award in Radiology

Eric Sung, M2
“Volumetric tumor segmentation on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in patients with primary and secondary glioblastoma (GBM)”
Mentor: Dr. Toshio Moritani, Radiology

The Larry W. Oberley Research Award in Radiation Oncology

David Riffe, M2
“Enhancing Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC) Cell Killing via Modulation of Hydroperoxide Metabolism”
Mentor: Dr. Douglas R Spitz, Radiation Oncology

Excellence in Urology Research

Michael Maidaa, M2
“Analysis of Compliance with Post-operative Follow-up Protocols after Anterior Urethroplasty”
Mentor: Dr. Bradley Erickson, Urology