Medical Student Research Conference Awards
September 20, 2020

Mentor Awards

2020 Summer Research Fellowship Outstanding Mentor in Basic Science Research
Donna L. Hammond, PhD – Anesthesia
Nominated by Faizan Khawaja, M2

2020 Summer Research Fellowship Outstanding Mentor in Clinical Research
Anthony Fischer, MD, PhD - Pediatrics
Nominated by Lucas Maakestad, M2

2020 Summer Research Fellowship Outstanding Mentor in Translational Research
Cesar de Cesar Netto, MD, PhD – Orthopedics and Rehabilitation
Nominated by: Victoria Vivtcharenko, M2
Eli Schmidt, M2
Sam Ahrenholz, M1
Caleb Iehl, M1

Student Research Awards – Foundation

François M. Abboud Prize for Best Platform Presentation (U of I Foundation Award)
Kristy Sevcik, M2
Title: “Understanding the Role of Interferons in Ebola Virus Infection of Keratinocytes”
Mentor: Wendy Maury, PhD, Microbiology

Donald D. Heistad Prize for Best Poster Presentation (U of I Foundation Award)
Madison Wahlen, M2G
Title: “Effect of Distance from and Time to Definitive Care on Traumatic Brain Injury Outcomes in the Setting of a Rural Trauma System”
Mentor: James Torner, PhD, Epidemiology

Borts Award (U of I Foundation Award)
Gabby Bierlein-De La Rosa, M1G
Title: “Cortical thickness and surface area in individuals with adult-onset myotonic dystrophy type 1”
Mentor: Peg Nopoulos, MD, Psychiatry

Edward Heath Award (U of I Foundation Award)
Riley Behan, M2G
Title: “Optimization of Adipocyte Spheroid Model for Testing of Polychlorinated Biphenyl Toxins”
Mentor: James Ankrum, PhD, Biomedical Engineering

Melvin Marcus Clinical Research Award (U of I Foundation Award)
Ryan Sabotin, M2
Title: “Morphological Characterization of Cerebral Fusiform Aneurysms”
Mentor: Edgar Samaniego, MD, Neurology

Excellence in Global Health Programs Research Award
Andy Tran, M2
Title: “Evaluation of a screening tool for the identification of neurological disorders in rural Uganda”
Mentor: Deanna Saylor, MD, Neurology
Student Research Awards - Departmental

Margaret V. Lunsford Award for Research in Anesthesia

**Faizan Khawaja, M2**  **ORAL**

*Title: “Determining the neuroprotective role and mechanisms of Nicotinamide Riboside and NAD+ using rodent models of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy”*

Mentor: Donna L. Hammond, PhD, Anesthesia

Excellence in Anesthesia Research

**Ethan Lemke, M2 and Matthew Behrens, M2**  **POSTER**

*Title: “Correlation of POCUS measures of OSA with Apnea- Hypopnea Index (AHI): An exploratory study.”*  
Mentor: Rakesh Sondekoppam, MBBS, Anesthesia

Arthur A. Spector Award in Basic Biomedical Research

**Kenten Kingsbury, M2**  **ORAL**

*Title: “Modeling Diabetes: Hyperglycemia Affects TGFBI Expression and Glycation in the Extracellular Matrix of the Posterior Cornea”*  
Mentor: Mark Greiner, MD, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

Nicholas P. Rossi Award for Cardiothoracic Surgery Research

**Camilla Koczara, M2**  **ORAL**

*Title: “An exploratory survey of the cell density of progenitor populations in proximal to distal native airways of the ferret lung transplant model”*  
Mentor: Kalpaj Parekh, MBBS, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Excellence in Dermatology Research

**Kevin Cheung, M4**  **ORAL**

*Title: “The Genetics of Early-stage Melanoma in Veterans”*  
Mentor: Jennifer Powers, MD, Dermatology

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Research

**Ty Bolte, M2**  **ORAL**

*Title: “What hospital level quality improvement practices are associated with improved sepsis quality indicator performance (SEP-1) and sepsis mortality?”*  
Mentor: Azeemuddin Ahmedk MD, Emergency Medicine

Excellence in Family Medicine Research

**Emily Ruba, M2**  **POSTER**

*Title: “International Standards Guiding the Use of Simulated Patients in Medical Education: A Qualitative Research Study”*  
Mentor: Jane Miller, PhD, Family Medicine

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

**Holly Conger, M4**  **ORAL**

*Title: “Testosterone Deficiency in Men Being Treated for Primary Pancreatic Cancer”*  
Mentor: Amy Pearlman, MD, Urology

John Stokes Award for Research in Internal Medicine

**Jayden Bowen, LOA**  **ORAL**

*Title: “High and low ratios of neutrophils differentially regulate T-cell responses”*  
Mentor: Julia Klesney-Tait, MD, PhD, Internal Medicine
Excellence in Internal Medicine Research

Cassidy Dean, M2  ORAL
Title: “Qualitative Investigation of Facilitators and Barriers Associated with Adherence to Wahls and Swank Dietary Interventions”
Mentor: Terry L. Wahls, MD, Internal Medicine

Excellence in Internal Medicine Research

Zach Skopec, M2  ORAL
Title: “Molecular Mechanisms of Skeletal Muscle Atrophy”
Mentor: Chris Adams MD, PhD, Internal Medicine

William Johnson Award for Research in Microbiology and Immunology

Greta Becker, M2  ORAL
Title: “Optimization of an ELISA to detect Anaplasma exposure in visceral leishmaniasis patients in Brazil”
Mentor: Christine Petersen, DVM, PhD, Epidemiology

Research Excellence in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics

Joseph Hentges, M1  ORAL
Title: “Dependence on canonical MAPK signaling in drug-resistant melanoma”
Mentor: Christopher Stipp, PhD, Biological Sciences

Excellence in Basic Neuroscience Research

Dake Huang, M2  ORAL
Title: “The Parabrachial Nucleus”
Mentor: Joel Geerling, MD, PhD, Neurology

Excellence in Clinical Neuroscience Research

Anthony Piscopo, M1  ORAL
Title: “A Meta-analysis of Supraorbital Craniotomy vs Endoscopic Endonasal Approach for Anterior Skull Base Meningiomas”
Mentor: Jeremy Greenlee, MD, Neurosurgery

Excellence in Translational Neuroscience Research

Ariel Roghair, M1  POSTER
Title: “Activation of Retinal Microglia and Astrocytes Across Murine Models of Traumatic Brain Injury”
Mentor: Alexander Bassuk, MD, PhD, Pediatrics

Excellence in Clinical Research in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Anne Nora, M4  ORAL
Title: “Identifying Social Determinants of Health in a Gynecologic Oncology Population”
Mentor: Michael Haugsdal, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology Research

Maggie Jakubiak, M2  POSTER
Title: “The Effect of Weight and Body Mass Index (BMI) on Serum Progesterone Values in In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Cycles”
Mentor: Rachel Mejia, DO, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Thomas A. Weingeist Award in Ophthalmology

Jennifer Wu, LOA  ORAL
Title: “Database Formation for Analysis of a New Electroretinogram Device: the RetEval”
Mentor: Arlene Drack, MD, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
William E. Scott Research Award in Ophthalmology

Aparna Ajjarapu, M2  ORAL
Title: “Delayed Anterior Segment Complications After Treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity with Laser Photocoagulation”
Mentor: Alina Dumitrescu, MD Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

Hansjoerg E. Kolder Award for Ophthalmology Research

Cheyanne Godwin, M2  ORAL
Title: “Development of an in vivo model for Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder in Long Evans Rats”
Mentor: Oliver Gramlich, PhD, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

Ignasio V. Ponseti Prize in Orthopaedic Research

Arman Hlas, M1  POSTER
Title: “Characterization of Factors Contributing to Iatrogenic Injury to Articular Cartilage during Arthroscopic Procedures”
Mentor: James Martin, PhD, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation

Research Excellence in Orthopaedics

Victoria Vivcharenko, M2  ORAL
Title: “Comparison Between Cotton Test and Tap Test For The Assessment of Coronal Syndesmotic Instability: A Cadaveric Study”
Mentor: Cesar De Cesar Netto, MD, PhD, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation

Excellence in Otolaryngology Research

Timon Higgins, M2  ORAL
Title: “Dexamethasone-Eluting Cochlear Implants Reduce Intracochlear Inflammation Following Surgery”
Mentor: Marlan R. Hansen, MD, Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery

Richard G. Lynch Award for Excellence in Pathology Research

Jane Persons, M4  POSTER
Title: “Epidemiology of Suicide in an Iowa Cohort”
Mentor: Marco Hefti, MD, Pathology

Richard G. Lynch Award for Excellence in Pathology Research

Jacob Kaplan, M2  ORAL
Title: “Outcomes of Succinate Dehydrogenase-Deficient Paragangliomas”
Mentor: Andrew Bellizzi, MD, Pathology

Excellence in Pediatric Basic Science Research

Alaina Berg, M1  ORAL
Title: “Initial Characterization of Porcine Pancreatic Ductal Organoids”
Mentor: Aliye Uc, MD, Pediatrics

Excellence in Pediatric Clinical Research

Bryn Myers, M2  ORAL
Title: “Pinpointing the genetic basis of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome – Hypermobility Type”
Mentor: Benjamin Darbro, MD, PhD, Pediatrics
Excellence in Neuroscience and Pharmacology Research

Kelsey Blocklinger, M1  
**Title:** “Behavioral Deficits in the Protocadherin-10 (Pcdh10) Mouse Model Relevant to Autism”  
**Mentor:** Ted Abel, PhD, Neuroscience and Pharmacology

George Winokur Research Award in Psychiatry

Brian Kinnaird, M2  
**Title:** “Identifying Antidepressant Gene Expression Signatures from an L1000 Dataset”  
**Mentor:** Mark Niciu, MD, PhD, Psychiatry

Bob Robinson Research Award in Psychiatry

Sarah Minion, M2  
**Title:** “Evaluation of an online delirium screening module to improve provider knowledge of delirium in the Emergency Department”  
**Mentor:** Sangil Lee, MD, Emergency Medicine

Lauretta Bender Research Award in Psychiatry

Brandon Bacalzo, M2  
**Title:** “Ketamine Metabolomics in a Human Neuronal Cell Line”  
**Mentor:** Mark Niciu, MD, PhD, Psychiatry

Jason Martin Medical Student Research Award in Radiology

Jacob Elam, M3  
**Title:** “Pulmonary Embolism Imaging: Incidentals and Overtesting”  
**Mentor:** Prashant Nagpal, MD, Radiology

Larry W. Oberley Award in Radiation Oncology

Robert Zhu, M2  
**Title:** “Validation of 3D volume-based treated tumor response assessment over standard RECIST v1.1”  
**Mentor:** Yusung Kim, PhD, Radiation Oncology

Kimberly Ephgrave Medical Student Award for Research in Surgery

Austin Kazarian, M4  
**Title:** “Oncologic Outcome of Low Testosterone in Male Patients with Pancreatic Cancer”  
**Mentor:** Carlos Chan, MD, PhD, Surgery

Excellence in Urology Research

Hannah Botkin, M3  
**Title:** “Optimizing Renal Function and Quality of Life in the Cervical Cancer Patient with Hydronephrosis”  
**Mentor:** Bradley Erickson, MD, Urology