



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Medical Research Program

Six Distinguished Clinical Scientists Receive Grants Totaling \$9 Million to Support Their Translational Research and Mentoring Programs

New York, NY, December 15, 2008 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation today announced that six mid-career physician-scientists have been selected to receive 2008 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awards, which provide recipients with \$1.5 million each over five to seven years. (Awardees are listed on page 2.)

The Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award recognizes outstanding leadership in clinical research and enables leading physician-scientists to continue bridging the crucial gap between biomedical research and clinical applications that improve human health. The research aims proposed by the 2008 awardees reflect the breadth of the work supported by the program, ranging from therapies for macular degeneration to recurrent gene fusions and translocations in a variety of tumors.

“The Scientific Advisory Council of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is very proud of our new group of Distinguished Clinical Scientist awardees,” said Dr. David Nathan, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council. “These are the skilled physicians who will contribute to the translation of basic science to clinical medicine and teach younger physicians to follow in their footsteps. Such physicians are absolutely required if we are to prevent and improve the treatment of serious illnesses.”

A unique element of the award program is its explicit support for mentoring activities. Awardees must spend at least \$100,000 each year on mentoring junior clinical investigators. On average, the foundation’s Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awards support five mentees per year, which typically include students, residents, fellows and junior faculty.

For the 2008 DCSA competition, any U.S. degree-granting institution could nominate two investigators who have demonstrated leadership, a history of excellence in translational clinical research, and a long-term commitment to research. The foundation received 68 nominations from 43 institutions. Nominees submitted research and mentoring plans to the foundation, which were reviewed in depth by scientific experts. The final six candidates were selected after interviews with the DDCF Medical Research Program’s Scientific Advisory Council.

Including the new grants, the foundation has supported 40 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Awards totaling close to \$66 million since 1998. The foundation expects to launch its next DCSA competition in the fall of 2009, with awards to be made in 2010. In addition to the DCSA, the DDCF Medical Research Program supports two other programs that provide funding for physician-scientists at different stages of their careers. The Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship supports one year of mentored research for medical students, and the Clinical

Scientist Development Award provides start-up funding for physician-scientists establishing their research teams.

Since 1998, the foundation's Medical Research Program has committed \$180.7 million to support clinical research, which advances the translation of basic biomedical discoveries into new treatments, preventions and cures for human diseases. To learn more about the Medical Research Program or to receive program announcements, visit www.ddcf.org/mrp.

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2008 Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award Recipients
(listed alphabetically by last name)

Sunil K. Ahuja, MD

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Immunogenetic Rheostats of HIV-1 Transmission, Keys for Vaccine Development

Marcus Altfeld, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School
Innate Immunity in HIV-1 Infection

Jayakrishna Ambati, MD

University of Kentucky College of Medicine
Short Non-Interfering RNAs as Novel Therapies for Age-related Macular Degeneration

Arul M. Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD

University of Michigan
Searching for Recurrent Gene Fusions and Translocations in Common Solid Tumors

Terrie Inder, MD, PhD

Washington University in St. Louis/St. Louis Children's Hospital
Understanding Brain Injury and Development in at Risk Infants to Improve Outcomes

Eric Vilain, MD, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles
Disorders of Sex Development

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The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.