News from the Hereditary Disease Foundation

Excitement Is Building!
We're looking forward to a wonderful night Celebrating Discoveries in Neuroscience at our Symposium and Gala on Monday, October 28, at the Harvard Club in New York. We hope you will join us! We're thrilled that Lesley Stahl, 60 Minutes, CBS News Correspondent, will host the evening and that Cori Bargmann of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative will present the keynote. To top it off, Emmy award winning journalist Charles Sabine, and brilliant researcher and HDF Scientific Advisory Board Member Scott Zeitlin will be featured. It will be night of important science, special surprises and great fun. You don't want to miss it! For ticket info, call our offices at 212-928-2121, email cures@hdfoundation.org or visit the Hereditary Disease Foundation website.

Funding Great Science
Supporting collaborative, game-changing research is what we do. We celebrate discoveries, and we celebrate the amazing scientists in laboratories around the world who are making these discoveries happen. Each year our dedicated Scientific Advisory Board, under the leadership of Anne Young and Leslie Thompson, reviews grant applications from around the world and selects the most innovative and promising research projects to fund. We're delighted to announce new grant and postdoctoral fellowship awards of almost $1.5 million for 2019. Thanks to our wonderful donors who understand that philanthropy is the fuel that drives research discoveries!

Here's an overview of the recipients and their projects. You'll be hearing more about their research in the months ahead.
2019 Funded Grants and Postdoctoral Fellowships

Osama Al Dalahmah, Columbia University Medical Center
The regional heterogeneity of Huntington's disease pathology: Clues from diverse astrocytic responses

Lauren Byrne, University College London
Mentor: Ed Wild
Influx-HD: Advancing biofluid biomarkers for disease-modifying trials in Huntington's disease

Rivka Dikstein, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
Unraveling the role of Spt4/Spt5 in inherited neurodegenerative diseases using newly discovered pharmacological tools

Steven Finkbeiner, Gladstone Institute, University of California San Francisco and Leslie Thompson, University of California, Irvine
Assessment of WGS-derived genetic modifiers in differentiated HD-derived iPSCs
Brent Fitzwalter, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
Mentor: Myriam Heiman
Cell type-specific mechanisms of Foxo3-dependent neuroprotection in Huntington’s Disease

Richard Hickman, Columbia University Medical Center
Generation of striatal neurons from HD patient-derived fibroblasts: a feasibility study with direct correlation to human neuropathology

Ali Khoshnan, California Institute of Technology
Editing of gut microbiota to reduce brain pathology in Huntington’s disease

Katerina Oikonomou, University of California, Los Angeles
Mentor: Michael S. Levine
Targeting Perturbed Calcium Signaling for the Treatment of Huntington's Disease Using Miniscopes and Ca2+ Sensors
Anna Pluciennik, Thomas Jefferson University
Crosstalk between DNA repair pathways in Huntington's disease

Paul Ranum, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Mentor: Beverly Davidson
High throughput quantification of gene expression and mRNA structure from single-cells in the HD brain

Charlene Smith-Geater, University of California, Irvine
Mentor: Leslie Thompson
PIAS1 intersecting with DNA repair, synaptic biology, bioenergetics and protein homeostasis in HD 2D and 3D human neurons

Nicholas Todd, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University
Targeted Delivery of Huntington's Disease Gene Therapeutics
Ray Truant, McMaster University
DNA Damage Repair Links to Energy Metabolism Defects in Huntington's disease: Defining New Therapeutic Targets

Gong-Her Wu, Stanford University
Mentor: Wah Chiu
Deciphering mutated huntingtin aggregates and cellular architecture in Huntington disease neuron by cryogenic electron microscopy

X. William Yang, University of California, Los Angeles
Novel Fan1 Knock-in Mice to Study the Role of Fan1 in Normal Brain Function and Huntington's Disease Pathogenesis

Innovating Research...Discovering Cures
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Published September 2019