



News from the Hereditary Disease Foundation

A Year of Discovery

The powerful partnership of brilliant scientists and visionary supporters opened up new avenues of discovery in 2019 and brought even more energy to our pursuit of treatments and cures for Huntington's disease. Early in the year we were inspired and excited by the announcements of three clinical trials, and we look forward to news of additional promising trial results and new trials in 2020. Scientists are now able to modify, silence, edit and manipulate the gene that causes Huntington's disease in ways that were once unthinkable!

Research is definitely making a difference. Some of the most trailblazing research worldwide is being supported by the Hereditary Disease Foundation. In the summer, we announced funding of almost \$1.5 million in grant and postdoctoral fellowship awards to HD scientists from around the world. We currently are inviting scientists to submit Letters of Intent by February 1 for grants and postdoctoral fellowships we will award in 2020. We're keeping the research pipeline going!



2019 HDF postdoctoral fellowship recipient Lauren Byrne, University College London



2019 HDF grant recipient Osama Al-Dalahmah, Columbia University Medical Center

Visit our [website](#) to read about all of our currently funded projects.

It was busy and thrilling fall season as we raised over \$1 million toward conquering HD at our Celebrating Discoveries in Neurosciences Symposium and Gala. What a beautiful evening with family, friends and scientists united in their commitment to advancing HD research. We were delighted to present the Leslie Gehry Brenner Prize for Innovation in Science to the distinguished HD researcher Scott Zeitlin from the University of Virginia.



Gillian Bates, recipient of the 2012 Leslie Gehry Brenner Prize for Innovation in Science, presents the 2019 Prize to Scott Zeitlin



Betty Wallerstein (center), HDF Partner in Research, with Amina Mammah (l) and Julie Dwyner (r) of ArchCare at Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center

The fall was even more special due to announcements of prestigious new honors for HDF President Nancy Wexler and Scientific Advisory Board Member Beverly Davidson from the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Nancy received the 2019 Double Helix Medal from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories and the Academy Medal for Distinguished Contributions in Biomedical Science from the New York Academy of Medicine. Bev was elected to the renowned National Academy of Medicine.



Beverly Davidson (center) with two members of her lab, HDF-funded scientists Paul Ranum (l) and Alejandro Mas-Monteys (r)

Also in October, we brought 40 scientists together for a two-day workshop sparking new collaborations and inspiring new pathways to discovery. We'll continue to foster scientific collaborations as we host 300 of the world's foremost thought leaders in HD research at our 12th Milton Wexler Celebration of Life Symposium in Boston in August 2020.



Nobel Laureate Richard Axel toasts Nancy Wexler at our Celebrating Discoveries in Neuroscience Gala

Thanks to our generous supporters, amazing scientists and wonderful HD families, we can see a future without HD. We celebrate 2019 as a banner year, and we look forward great things in 2020. The cure is within our grasp!

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

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