



**Hereditary Disease Foundation Launches the Nancy S. Wexler  
Discovery Fund and Names First Recipient of Young  
Investigator Prize**



Dr. Nancy Wexler

Photo © Erica Lansner Photography

We are thrilled to announce the official launch of the [Nancy S. Wexler Discovery Fund](#), established to honor the pioneering spirit, relentless dedication and enduring optimism of Nancy Wexler, President of the Hereditary Disease Foundation (HDF), as she celebrates her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Nancy has recently revealed in the *New York Times* that she has been diagnosed with Huntington's disease, the illness she has spent her life studying.

The Nancy S. Wexler Discovery Fund will encourage research collaborations and the recruitment of young scientists, echoing the hallmarks of Nancy's career. Each year the Fund will award the Nancy S. Wexler Young Investigator Prize to a researcher whose work reflects the highest caliber of excellence, diligence and creative thinking. The Fund will also support educational workshops and conferences.

"There is no more fitting way to honor Nancy's visionary leadership and indomitable spirit than by establishing this Fund in her name," said Meghan Donaldson, CEO of the Hereditary Disease Foundation.

"We are excited to launch this new initiative with \$350,000 in advance gifts from our Directors, Scientific Advisory Board members and other longtime friends. It is my hope that their tremendous show of support will inspire many others to contribute now, moving us toward the day when families will no longer have to face the terrible challenge of Huntington's disease."

### **First Recipient of the Nancy S. Wexler Young Investigator Prize**



Dr. Osama Al-Dalahmah

The Hereditary Disease Foundation is honored to present the first Nancy S. Wexler Young Investigator Prize to Dr. Osama Al-Dalahmah.

Dr. Al-Dalahmah, neuropathology instructor in the department of pathology and cell biology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, is being recognized for his work to discover ways of increasing the brain's ability to protect itself from damage caused by Huntington's disease.

“Osama’s brilliant work is bringing us closer to new therapies and potential cures for Huntington’s disease,” said Dr. Anne B. Young, Chair of the Hereditary Disease Foundation Scientific Advisory Board and Vice Chair of the HDF Board of Directors. “This Prize honors Nancy’s extraordinary ability to recruit young, talented scientists to the field and build research collaborations.”

“The Hereditary Disease Foundation — especially Dr. Nancy Wexler — is the reason why I joined the ranks of Huntington’s disease researchers,” said Dr. Al-Dalahmah.

In the last two years, the Hereditary Disease Foundation has provided over \$3 million for trailblazing research worldwide. Funding for this research comes from contributions from loyal friends such as you.

We sincerely thank you for considering a gift to the Nancy S. Wexler Discovery Fund.

Your support will make a powerful difference.

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