News from the Hereditary Disease Foundation

Funding Brilliant Scientists, Game-Changing Research
Each year our Scientific Advisory Board, under the leadership of Drs. Anne B. Young of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and Leslie M. Thompson of University of California, Irvine, reviews grant and fellowship applications from around the world and selects the most innovative and promising Huntington’s disease research projects to fund. We’re thrilled to announce new awards totaling over $1.5 million for 2020.

Here’s an overview of the grantees and their projects. You will be hearing more about their research in the months ahead!

Osama Al-Dalahmah, Columbia University Medical Center
First Recipient of the Nancy S. Wexler Young Investigator Prize
Studying Huntington’s disease astrocytes in different parts of the brain: A regional study of the landscape of gene expression at the single cell level

Cheryl Arrowsmith, University of Toronto
Unravelling the connections between the Huntington’s disease protein and our genetic material
Abdellatif Benraiss, University of Rochester
White matter role in the pathology of Huntington's disease

Veronica Ines Brito, University of Barcelona – Instituto de Neurociencias, Spain
Exploring the role of RNA editing on the generation of pathogenic huntingtin fragments

Richard A. Hickman (joint with Jean Paul G. Vonsattel), Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Human tissue banking for the Huntington’s disease research community

Ali Khoshnan, California Institute of Technology
Developing gut-based therapies for Huntington's disease

Ryan Lim, University of California, Irvine
Interactions between metabolism, gene expression, and gender in Huntington’s disease
Roy Maimon, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, University of California, San Diego
Mentor Name: Don W. Cleveland
Therapy development for Huntington’s disease using in vivo conversion of astrocytes into striatal neurons

A. Jenny Morton, University of Cambridge
Can core body temperature be used as a readout for changes in metabolism in Huntington’s disease?

Daniel O’Reilly, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Mentor: Anastasia Khvorova
Understanding the role of aggregates in Huntington’s disease

Jennie C. Lacour Roy, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School
Mentor: Ricardo Mouro Pinto
Testing of novel drugs targeting CAG repeat expansions as candidate therapeutics for Huntington’s disease

David M. Sabatini, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Using metabolism to measure defects in cellular self-cleaning in Huntington’s disease
Joan Steffan, University of California, Irvine
Identification of Huntingtin-dependent cellular trash collection pathways

Xiao Sun, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Mentor Name: Guo-Min Li
Mutant huntingtin promotes CAG repeat expansion

Nicholas Todd, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School
Improving delivery of Huntington’s disease therapies to the brain

Jean Paul G. Vonsattel (joint with Richard A. Hickman), Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Human tissue banking for the Huntington’s disease research community

Ai Yamamoto, Columbia University
Determining how the protein Alfy may improve Huntington's disease-like symptoms
We Can’t Do It Without You
Thank you to our dedicated donors and new friends who have already made generous contributions to the Nancy S. Wexler Discovery Fund. If you haven’t already, we hope you will consider making a gift. Philanthropy is the fuel that drives research discoveries and leads to treatments and cures. Your gift will help us continue to fund the most collaborative and exceptional Huntington’s disease research. What better way to honor Nancy Wexler, President of the Hereditary Disease Foundation, as she celebrates her 75th year!

Innovating Research…Discovering Cures
Donate Today

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