KLERMAN & FREEDMAN AWARDS DINNER

Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary & Honoring Our Scientific Council

► FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

METROPOLITAN CLUB NEW YORK

Welcome to the Klerman & Freedman Awards Dinner.

Tonight is a very special evening as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation and honor the members of our Scientific Council for their service. The Scientific Council, led by its founding President, Dr. Herbert Pardes, review and select the most promising research ideas with the greatest potential to lead to future breakthroughs. We thank them for their time, expertise, and judgment to support the mission of our Foundation.

We also recognize and honor the exceptional work of some of the outstanding researchers who have received prizes through the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation's Young Investigator Grant program, which supports young scientists as they gather pilot data and "proof of concept" for their innovative clinical and basic research.

The Prizes are named for Gerald L. Klerman and Daniel X. Freedman, two neuro-psychiatry pioneers who played seminal roles as researchers, teachers, physicians and administrators. The prizewinners are selected by committees of the Foundation's Scientific Council.

Six young researchers are being recognized tonight for significant findings related to depression, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, anorexia nervosa, and autism spectrum disorders. In each case, their work represents the frontier of discovery in mental illness, probing deep into the genetic and neurobiological roots of these diseases and developing novel tools and treatments to prevent and alleviate suffering and to restore quality of life to those affected.

The Brain & Behavior Research Foundation continues to support the most promising ideas in brain research across disciplines, institutions and continents. We hope that as you learn about the achievements of this evening's honorees they will inspire your continued support of our work toward a future in which all people living with a psychiatric condition lead full, productive, and happy lives.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Borenstein, M.D. President & CEO

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23rd ANNUAL KLERMAN PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH

Jennifer C. Felger, Ph.D., MSCR

Winship Cancer Institute Emory University School of Medicine

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Danai Dima, Ph.D.

City, University London King's College London

Carolyn Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D.

Stanford University



20th ANNUAL FREEDMAN PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL BASIC RESEARCH

Ilana B. Witten, Ph.D.

Princeton University

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Marcelo de Oliveira Dietrich, M.D., Ph.D.

Yale School of Medicine

Elise Robinson, Sc.D., M.P.H.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

KLERMAN	
Prizewinner	5

1995	Dr. Rajiv Tandon
1996	Dr. Hans C. Brieter
1997	Dr. Schahram Akbarian
1998	Dr. Michael Maes
1999	Dr. Andrew L. Stoll
2000	Dr. Susan K. Schultz
2001	Dr. Cameron S. Carter Dr. Josephy R. Hibbeln Dr. Sarah H. Lisanby Dr. Perry F. Renshaw
2002	Dr. E. Sherwood Brown Dr. John W. Newcomer
2003	Dr. Ramin Mojtabai
2004	Dr. Helen Link Egger Dr. Joan L. Luby
2005	Dr. Melissa P. DelBello
2006	Dr. Hilary P. Blumberg
2006	Dr. Hilary P. Blumberg Dr. Beng-Choon Ho
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2007	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho Dr. Gabriel Alejandro
2007	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin
2007 2008 2009	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin Dr. Alina Suris Dr. Daniel P. Dickstein
2007 2008 2009 2010	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin Dr. Alina Suris Dr. Daniel P. Dickstein Dr. Mani N. Pavuluri
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin Dr. Alina Suris Dr. Daniel P. Dickstein Dr. Mani N. Pavuluri Dr. Chadi Calarge
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin Dr. Alina Suris Dr. Daniel P. Dickstein Dr. Mani N. Pavuluri Dr. Chadi Calarge Dr. Jess G. Fiedorowicz
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin Dr. Alina Suris Dr. Daniel P. Dickstein Dr. Mani N. Pavuluri Dr. Chadi Calarge Dr. Jess G. Fiedorowicz Dr. James McPartland

KLERMAN Honorable Mentions

1995	Dr. Elizabeth D. Abercrombie Dr. Kim T. Mueser Dr. Jose V. Pardo
1996	Dr. Steven E. Arnold Dr. Helen S. Mayberg
1997	Dr. Andrew J. Francis Dr. Katharine A. Phillips
1998	Dr. Cameron S. Carter Dr. Mark R. Serper
1999	Dr. Shitij Kapur Dr. Brian F. O'Donnell
2000	Dr. Mark S. George Dr. Sohee Park
2002	Dr. Stephan Heckers Dr. Anissa Abi Dargham Dr. Jeffrey H. Meyer Dr. Yvette I. Sheline
2003	Dr. Catherine Monk Dr. Gerard Sanacora
2005	Dr. Anne L. Glowinski Dr. Gerard Sanacora
2006	Dr. Stephan Eliez Dr. Jordan W. Smoller
2007	Dr. Yuval Y. Neria Dr. Carolyn M. Salafia
2011	Dr. Brian M. D'Onofrio Dr. Jennifer S. Silk
2012	Dr. Johanne Renaud Dr. Manpreet Kaur Singh
2013	Dr. Daniel Mueller Dr. Andrea Danese
2014	Dr. Mazen A. Kheirbek Dr. Bo Li
2015	Dr. Chadi Abdallah Dr. Carrie J. McAdams
2016	Dr. Erin C. Dunn Dr. Avram Holmes

THE KLERMAN PRIZE

The Klerman Prize, established in 1994 by Myrna M. Weissman, Ph.D., in memory of her late husband, Gerald L. Klerman, M.D., honors exceptional clinical research by a Young Investigator Grantee.

A distinguished psychiatric researcher and mentor at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and a member of the faculties of Yale, Harvard and Cornell Universities, Dr. Klerman served from 1977 to 1980 as chief administrator at the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

At the NIMH, Dr. Klerman became a central figure in the psychopharmacology service center's collaborative study of phenothiazine as a treatment for acute schizophrenia and in the program on the psychobiology of depression. He led planning of multi-site studies defining affective and anxiety disorders as well as the development and evaluation of treatments.

While pioneering studies of psychotropic medications, he developed and tested interpersonal psychotherapy, a treatment now used throughout the world. Dr. Weissman is herself an eminent depression researcher at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. She has received three Distinguished Investigator Grants and the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation 1994 Outstanding Achievement Prize in Mood and Affective Disorders (renamed The Colvin Prize in 2012). In 2013, she joined the Foundation's Scientific Council.

KLERMAN PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Responsible for selecting the Klerman Prizewinners, the following Foundation Scientific Council Members make up the Selection Committee:

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New York University

Nina R. Schooler, Ph.D.
State University of New York, Downstate

Karen Dineen Wagner, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Texas
Medical Branch at Galveston





JENNIFER C. FELGER, PH.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, and Laboratory Director of the Emory Behavioral Immunology Program, at Emory University School of Medicine. She is also an Associate Member of the Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University.

Dr. Felger is being honored for her work on "The Neurocircuitry of Inflammation-Induced Anhedonia in Depression." Her work combines basic and clinical approaches to understand the mechanisms by which inflammation affects neurotransmitter systems and neurocircuits in the brain to affect behavior in patients with major depression or medical illnesses like cancer. For this project, Dr. Felger examined whether increased inflammation affects reward circuitry in the brain to lead to reduced motivation and anhedonia (inability to feel pleasure) in patients with major depressive disorder. The project laid the foundation for her ongoing studies that aim to identify novel therapeutic strategies to treat behavioral symptoms in patients with high inflammation.

Dr. Felger received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Masters in Clinical Research from Emory University, and has completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuro-endocrinology and Neuroimmunology at The Rockefeller University. She has been awarded Early Career and/or Travel Awards from the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology, Winter Conference on Brain Research and American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and has received a R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health as well as funding from the Dana Foundation and the American Cancer Society.

2017 KLERMAN PRIZEWINNER

FOR EXCEPTIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH

Jennifer C. Felger, Ph.D., MSCR

Assistant Professor Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences *Emory University School of Medicine*

2015 Young Investigator Grant

"The Young Investigator Award was an invaluable opportunity that allowed me to have my first independent funding and has really helped to launch my research program.

With this award I was able to determine the impact of inflammation on reward circuitry in patients with depression. The Award was critical to the overall goal of my work to develop better treatments for patient with depression and high inflammation, who are often resistant to standard antidepressant therapies."



DANAI DIMA, PH.D. is a Lecturer in Cognitive Neuroscience in the Department of Psychology at City, University of London, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London.

For her project titled "An Integrative Genomics and Imaging Approach to Identify Resilient Mechanisms for Bipolar Disorder," Dr. Dima studied factors associated with adaptive resilience to bipolar disorder which are usually overlooked in research. Resilient adaptation refers to brain features that have changed in order to avert psychopathology despite expressed genetic predisposition to bipolar disorder.

Dr. Dima examined the interplay between brain and genes in people with bipolar disorder, their resilient relatives who share genetic features predicting bipolar disorder but show no symptoms, and unrelated people without any psychiatric disorder. Her work had three key findings.

First, functional connections between different brain regions showed that participants with bipolar disorder and their relatives have increased connections between the amygdala, crucial for emotional responses, and the ventromedial prefrontal cortex, part of the brain's executive center that helps inhibit emotions and make decisions. However, resilient relatives additionally showed increased connections between brain regions involved in visual processing, particularly face recognition. This additional hyper-connectivity can be inferred as adaptive because it is associated with preserved mental well-being in the relatives. Second, measuring an individual's accumulation of genetic risks [polygenic risk] of developing bipolar disorder may be helpful in identifying brain circuit abnormalities that give rise to aspects of mood

2017 KLERMAN PRIZE HONORABLE MENTION

Danai Dima, Ph.D.

Lecturer in Cognitive Neuroscience Department of Psychology City, University of London

Senior Research Fellow Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience King's College London

2014 Young Investigator Grant

dysregulation characteristic of the disorder. Third, the length of telomeres, the caps at the end of each strand of DNA that protect our chromosomes, was decreased in the relatives compared to unrelated healthy individuals. Telomere length was also shorter in patients with bipolar disorder, but lithium treatment modified this relationship such that patients on long-term lithium treatment had longer telomeres compared to their relatives and to patients with bipolar disorder who were not treated with lithium.

Dr. Dima received a BSc in Psychology from Panteion University, Athens, Greece and an MSc in Integrative Neuroscience from Imperial College London. She was awarded a Marie Curie Early Stage Training Fellowship for her Ph.D. studies in Cognitive Neuroscience, completed at the Hannover Medical School, Germany.

"The Young Investigator Award has been instrumental to my work as an early career researcher and it has provided me with support to establish my own lab. It allowed me to develop key skills in the analysis of high dimensional datasets that integrate neuroimaging with clinical, genetic and epigenetic data while pursuing a better understanding of bipolar disorder."





CAROLYN RODRIGUEZ, M.D., PH.D. is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Director of the Translational Therapeutics Lab at Stanford University and a Consult-Liaison Psychiatrist at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care System.

For her grant project, "Pilot Study of the NMDAR Modulator Rapastinel (formerly GLYX-13) in Adults with OCD," Dr. Rodriguez showed that rapastinel, an experimental drug currently being evaluated for the treatment for major depression, may relieve the symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) rapidly and with few side effects.

Rodriguez and her colleagues investigated rapastinel because they previously found that some OCD patients receive rapid relief from their symptoms when treated with ketamine. Ketamine has long been used as an anesthetic, and in recent years researchers have found that it can also rapidly relieve symptoms of depression. However, the drug's side effects, which include a feeling of dissociation—a sense of detachment from one's self, or an "out-of-body" experience—are a challenge for broad clinical use in treating psychiatric disorders.

Hoping to find a treatment that reduces patients' obsessions and compulsions quickly without dissociative side effects, Rodriguez and her colleagues have turned to rapastinel. It, like ketamine, is a drug that modulates the action of NMDA receptors in the brain—docking ports for the neurotransmitter glutamate and important in learning, memory and synaptic plasticity and thought to play a role in OCD.

2017 KLERMAN PRIZE HONORABLE MENTION

Carolyn Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Director of the Translational Therapeutics Lab Stanford University

Consult-Liaison Psychiatrist Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care System

2014, 2009 Young Investigator Grant

Seven people with OCD participated in the team's initial clinical study. Each was given a single dose of rapastinel. The drug was well tolerated—no patient reported dissociative side effects—and within hours of treatment, the severity of patients' symptoms had declined significantly. While rapastinel's effects on OCD symptoms were rapid, they were not long-lasting. The scientists say important next steps will be testing the effects of repeated dosing and working to develop related drugs that reduce OCD symptoms over a sustained period.

Dr. Rodriguez received her B.S. in Computer Science from Harvard University in 1996, followed by her Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Genetics from Harvard Medical School and M.D. from Harvard Medical School-M.I.T. in 2004.

"I have seen first-hand how the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation has accelerated the pace of psychiatric research by fostering innovative research that is more challenging through conventional grant mechanisms. The Young Investigator Award supported my launch as an independent investigator and fueled my discovery of glutamate modulating compounds with rapid action in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). I am forever grateful for the generosity and kindness of donors for both supporting the Foundation and my passion for pioneering treatments that rapidly relieve the suffering of individuals with serious mental illnesses."



FREEDMAN Prizewinners

1998	Dr. Yukiko Goto
1999	Dr. Stewart A. Anderson
2000	Dr. Edwin G. Abel
2001	Dr. Kelsey C. Martin
2002	Dr. Jon R. Backstrom
2003	Dr. Jose A. Esteban
2004	Dr. Luca Santarelli
2005	Dr. Lisa M. Monteggia
2006	Dr. Michael D. Ehlers
2007	Dr. Thomas A. Blanpied
2008	Dr. Evelyn K. Lambe
2009	Dr. Kerry J. Ressler
2010	Dr. David A. Baker
2011	Dr. Alexandre Bonnin
2012	Dr. Zhiping Pang
2013	Dr. Garret Stuber
2014	Dr. Theodore D. Satterthwaite
2015	Dr. Michael M. Halassa
2016	Dr. Kay Tye

FREEDMAN Honorable Mentions

1998	Dr. Eric E. Turner Dr. Elizabeth Van Bockstaele
1999	Dr. Emmanuel N. Pothos Dr. Laurence H. Tecott
2000	Dr. Wayne Drevets Dr. Bernice E. Morrow
2001	Dr. Michael J. Caterina Dr. Aurelio A. Galli
2002	Dr. Michael W. Quick Dr. Fu-Ming Zhou
2003	Dr. William A. Carlezon Dr. Gleb P. Shumyatsky
2004	Dr. Michael D. Ehlers Dr. Sheena Ann Josselyn
2005	Dr. Steven A. Thomas Dr. Fang Liu
2006	Dr. Stewart A. Anderson Dr. Gabriella D' Arcangelo Dr. Karoly Mirnics
2007	Dr. Fang Liu Dr. Luca Santarelli
2008	Dr. M. Margarita Behrens Dr. Akira Sawa
2009	Dr. Jean-Martin Beaulieu Dr. Colleen Ann McClung
2010	Dr. Vincent P. Ferrera Dr. Benjamin Philpot
2011	Dr. Alberto Bacci Dr. Andrew A. Pieper
2012	Dr. Marie Carlen Dr. Genevieve Konopka
2013	Dr. Carmen Andreescu Dr. David Foster Dr. Hiroki Taniguchi
2014	Dr. Elena Ivleva Dr. Aristotle N. Voineskos
2015	Dr. Kristen J. Brennand Dr. Nandakumar Narayanan
2016	Dr. Conor Liston Dr. Margaret Cho

THE FREEDMAN PRIZE

The Freedman Prize honors the late Daniel X. Freedman, M.D., a pioneer in biological psychiatry and psychopharmacology and a founding member of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation's Scientific Council. It is awarded to a Young Investigator Grantee for exceptional basic studies.

Dr. Freedman was an innovator in bringing the biological sciences to psychiatry. He was Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Chicago for 17 years and Executive Vice Chair of the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences for eight years.

While at Yale University in the 1950s, Dr. Freedman worked extensively with patients with schizophrenia and their families, and developed a particular interest in the clinical phenomena of psychosis, such as hallucinations. During this time, he spent a year at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to research the effects of LSD on neurotransmitters in the brain and discovered that it altered the functioning of serotonin. This began his professional focus on the role of serotonin in brain function. He went on to discover similar neurochemical processes in the brain during environmental stress and in childhood autism. He also studied elements of schizophrenia and Huntington's disease, brain mechanisms in allergies and the way that drugs interact with the central nervous system to alter behavior.

FREEDMAN PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Responsible for selecting the Freedman Prizewinners, the following Foundation Scientific Council Members make up the Selection Committee:

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Ronald S. Duman, Ph.D. *Yale University*

Fritz A. Henn, M.D., Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Peter W. Kalivas, Ph.D.

Medical University of South Carolina





ILANA B. WITTEN, PH.D. is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Neuroscience Institute at Princeton University.

Her lab at Princeton works on interrogating the neural circuitry that supports reward learning and decision making. In particular, Dr. Witten's work, including her Young Investigator grant "Dopamine, Working Memory, and Schizophrenia: Dissecting Spatiotemporal Dynamics," has focused on the role of dopamine in cognition. Dopamine dysfunction is implicated in a wide range of neurobiological disorders, including addiction, PTSD, Parkinson's disease, and schizophrenia.

How can dopamine contribute to so many diverse conditions? A central hypothesis that the Witten Lab investigates is that dopamine neurons that project to different parts of the brain encode different information with different temporal properties, and are therefore involved in different aspects of cognition and behavior.

Dopamine has long been known to contribute to working memory, which is the cognitive ability to remember and manipulate information for several seconds. Perhaps because of this important role in working memory, dysfunction in dopamine transmission results in debilitating brain diseases. For example, schizophrenia, Parkinson's, and ADHD are characterized in part by deficits in working memory, which are thought to be related to the dopaminergic imbalances that characterize these disorders. The research team in Dr. Witten's lab has helped to clarify the mechanisms by which dopamine may contribute to the working memory deficits in these disorders. Specifically, by investigating the importance of the spatial and temporal dynamics of activity in the dopamine system, Dr. Witten and colleagues may

2017 FREEDMAN PRIZEWINNER FOR EXCEPTIONAL BASIC RESEARCH

► Ilana B. Witten, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor Princeton University

2014 Young Investigator Grant

help explain why pharmacological modulation of the dopamine system, which does not allow for spatially and temporally precise control of dopaminergic signaling, has not been effective in alleviating working memory deficits in clinical populations. This insight could in turn guide and inspire more effective future treatments that involve more spatially and/or temporally precise dopamine interventions.

Dr. Witten graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. in Physics in 2002, and received her Ph.D. in Neurosciences from Stanford University in 2008. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow with Scientific Council Member Karl Deisseroth, M.D., Ph.D. in the Department of Bioengineering at Stanford, where she developed and applied optogenetic tools to dissect the neuromodulatory control of reward behavior in rodents.

"My Young Investigator Grant arrived at a critical juncture in my career, just as I was establishing my own independent research program. This funding gave me the resources that I needed to take risks and explore new research directions. Thanks in part to the support from the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation, I have since been successful in securing funds from the NIH and other foundations to support my research."



MARCELO DE OLIVEIRA DIETRICH, M.D., PH.D. is an Assistant Professor in Comparative Medicine and Neuroscience at the Yale School of Medicine.

Dr. Dietrich's laboratory combines his life-long interest in animal behavior and ethological studies with modern approaches from systems neuroscience and molecular biology. He and his colleagues study the ontogeny of behaviors and how disturbance in these developmental mechanisms might lead to disordered states later in life, using both traditional and non-traditional animal models. The goal of their research is to shed light on physiological processes relevant to the understanding of mammalian behaviors, to solve diseases such as anorexia nervosa and obesity.

Toward this end, Dr. Dietrich has studied novel functions and mechanisms by which highly conserved hypothalamic neurons regulate metabolism and behavior. The most immediate application of the findings relates to our understanding of eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa as well as obesity and binge eating disorders. His results from his grant study, "Interplay Between Sustained Activation of Agrp Neurons and Dopamine Signaling in the Etiology of Anorexia Nervosa,"-suggest that compounds already tested in humans for different conditions, such as NPY5 receptor antagonists, might be useful in treating behavioral manifestations of diseases such as anorexia nervosa without causing major metabolic side effects.

While these experiments are first efforts to develop new alternatives to a highly fatal psychiatric condition, he and his colleagues believe their breadth and potential impact warrant the need for further evaluation in humans.

2017 FREEDMAN PRIZE HONORABLE MENTION

Marcelo de Oliveira Dietrich, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Department of Comparative Medicine and Neuroscience
Yale School of Medicine

2014 Young Investigator Grant

From the theories of Freud to Tinbergen to Harlow and Ainsworth, the attachment of children to their parents, mainly their mothers, is crucial for proper mammalian development and mental health. Another line of research in Dietrich's lab aims to uncover the mechanisms of neonatal attachment to understand their relevance to physiology and disease.

Dr. Dietrich received his M.D. in 2007, and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 2012, both from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil, and practiced as a general clinician shortly after completing his medical degree. He has trained in laboratories at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health; the Cajal Institute in Spain; and completed his graduate research at Yale University before starting his own laboratory at Yale.

"The funding from this grant mechanism has been fundamental to ignite my laboratory when I was just starting to launch my independent group. It gave us the confidence and support to tackle some important questions. It gave us also the breadth necessary to obtain more sustained and robust funding from other institutions and, most importantly, to build a research team focused on high-risk basic biomedical research relevant to human diseases."



ELISE B. ROBINSON, SC.D., M.P.H. is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute.

Dr. Robinson's research focuses on the genetic influences on behavior and cognition. She is particularly interested in heterogeneity within psychiatric disorders, psychiatric disease risk in the general population, and outcome variation in individuals at high risk for severe mental illness. Her group is organizing international data collection activities, with a concentration on neurodevelopmental disorders.

Her Young Investigator project, "Genotype to Phenotype Association in Autism Spectrum Disorders," used genetic data to better understand differences among people with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). Dr. Robinson and her colleagues aimed to highlight groups of cases more likely to share genetic influences. The project has successfully identified several variables that are associated with differences in ASDs' genetic architecture. This could lead to more efficient research studies and, ultimately, greater clarity in designing treatment trials.

2017 FREEDMAN PRIZE HONORABLE MENTION

Elise B. Robinson, Sc.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

2015 Young Investigator Grant

Dr. Robinson received her A.B. in Anthropology from Dartmouth College in 2005, her M.P.H. in Behavioral Science from Emory University in 2007 and her Sc.D. in Psychiatric Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2010. She held postdoctoral research positions in statistical genetics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), focusing on the genetic influences on autism spectrum disorders and related neuropsychiatric conditions.

"The research supported by this Award has permitted me to clarify and carve out my independent research trajectory. The grant helped carry me from time as a trainee to my first faculty position, which I began in this year. I am excited to continue this line of research and am very grateful to the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation for their support in the development of my research career."



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