Scientific Council Dinner

Presenting the Klerman & Freedman Awards

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019
Metropolitan Club New York

BRAIN & BEHAVIOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Awarding NARSAD Grants
Welcome to the Scientific Council Dinner where we will present the 2019 Klerman & Freedman Awards

The BBRF Scientific Council, led by Dr. Herbert Pardes, reviews and selects the most promising research ideas with the greatest potential to lead to further breakthroughs in brain and behaviors research. We thank them for their time, expertise, and judgement to support the mission of the Foundation.

Tonight we will recognize and honor the exceptional work of six outstanding young researchers who have received awards through the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation’s Young Investigator Grant program, which supports early career scientists as they gather pilot data and “proof of concept” for their innovative clinical and basic research. The prizewinners are selected by committees of the Foundation’s Scientific Council.

Following our dinner, Dr. Pardes will lead an engaging discussion on the state of research and psychiatry with select members of our Scientific Council.

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
ANNUAL KLERMAN PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH

Nolan R. Williams, M.D.
*Stanford University*  
*Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute, Stanford Bio-X*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Bo Cao, Ph.D.
*University of Alberta, Canada*

Sarah A. O. Gray, Ph.D.
*Tulane University*

ANNUAL FREEDMAN PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL BASIC RESEARCH

Anna Victoria Molofsky, M.D., Ph.D.
*University of California, San Francisco*  
*Weill Institute for Neurosciences*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Erin S. Calipari, Ph.D.
*Vanderbilt University School of Medicine*

Dorothy Schafer, Ph.D.
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

About the Prizes

The Klerman & Freedman Prizes pay tribute to Drs. Gerald L. Klerman and Daniel X. Freedman, whose legacies as researchers, teachers, physicians and administrators have indelibly influenced neuropsychiatry.

Their outstanding contributions to the field of brain and behavior research continue to inspire scientists who knew them, as well as those who are just entering the field.
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 BBRF Young Investigator Grantee. A distinguished psychiatric researcher and mentor at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Dr. Klerman pioneered studies of psychotropic medications and developed and tested interpersonal psychotherapy. Dr. Weissman serves on the BBRF Scientific Council.

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University of Texas,
Medical Branch at Galveston
**KLERMAN Prizewinners**

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
2007  Dr. Beng-Choon Ho
2008  Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin
2009  Dr. Alina Suris
2010  Dr. Daniel P. Dickstein  
       Dr. Mani N. Pavuluri
2011  Dr. Chadi Calarge
2012  Dr. Jess G. Fiedorowicz
2013  Dr. James McPartland
2014  Dr. Denis Jabartland
2015  Dr. Alan Anticevic
2016  Dr Katie McLaughlin
2017  Dr. Jennifer C. Felger
2018  Dr. Albert R. Powers III

**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
2017  Dr. Danai Dima  
       Dr. Carolyn Rodriguez
2018  Dr. Timothy Y. Mariano
BBRF has been at the forefront of every major psychiatric breakthrough over
the last several decades and I have been fortunate enough to be mentored
by several members of the Scientific Council including Mark George, Alan
Schatzberg, and Rob Malenka. Recognition by BBRF is quite humbling and I
very much hope to continue to help in the development of new therapies for
treatment-resistant patients in the coming years.”
Dr. Bo Cao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta.

The Cao lab is developing translational tools for precise diagnosis and personalized treatment optimization for psychiatric disorders, e.g., major depressive disorders, bipolar disorders, schizophrenia, and substance misuse. His approach is to apply advanced machine learning and statistical techniques to big multi-modal data (brain imaging, genetic, biological, behavioral, cognitive and clinical measurements, and electronic health records). Dr. Cao’s team goal is to apply the tools they build into an effective AI suite to enhance mental health service and improve the lives of the mentally ill.

“The BBRF Young Investigator Grant really helped me to jump-start my career in the emerging field of computational psychiatry with the hope to use my analytical skills to help patients with mental disorders. It is such a forward-looking and generous grant that makes my dream career and research come true.”
The BBRF Young Investigator award provided critical support for my research at its earliest stages. The support allowed me to collect pilot data on a novel treatment target with parents and young children, demonstrating feasibility for my ideas in a way that catalyzed a successful grant application to the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Sarah Gray is a Clinical Psychologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Tulane University, where she holds a joint appointment in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Her research examines the developmental consequences of early life adversity, with a specific focus on intergenerational processes. The Gray lab takes a multilevel approach, integrating narrative, behavioral, and physiological measurement to understand how risk and resilience is transmitted across generations through behavioral and biological pathways, situated in relational and broader social contexts. Her Young Investigator project examined how the correspondence between mothers’ and young children’s stress physiology may be altered in contexts of maternal early life adversity, with potential consequences for children’s biological and behavioral self-regulation and mental health risk.

“The BBRF Young Investigator award provided critical support for my research at its earliest stages. The support allowed me to collect pilot data on a novel treatment target with parents and young children, demonstrating feasibility for my ideas in a way that catalyzed a successful grant application to the National Institutes of Health.”
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 Scientific Council. It is awarded to a BBRF Young Investigator Grantee for exceptional basic studies.

FREEDMAN PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE

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

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University of North Carolina
School of Medicine
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
2017  Dr. Ilana Witten
2018  Dr. Byungkook Lim

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
2017  Dr. Marcelo de Oliveira Dietrich
      Dr. Elise B. Robinson
2018  Dr. Christina Gremel
      Dr. Ueli Rutishauser
My BBRF grant provided seed funding to enable a new research direction as I was just starting my lab. This was crucial to the publication of my first senior author paper and to obtaining additional independent funding. BBRF support enabled us to focus our future research on how the immune system shapes healthy brain development and how immune function is altered in mental illnesses.”
Dr. Erin Calipari is an Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University in the Department of Pharmacology.

Dr. Calipari’s work focuses on understanding the interplay between neuronal activation and long-term changes in transcription in the expression of behaviors.

The Calipari lab seeks to understand how information about stimuli is encoded in the brain. Dr. Calipari’s most recent work has focused on how sex differences in these processes make women particularly vulnerable to substance use disorder. Women transition to substance use disorder faster from first use and relapse at higher rates than men, however, the underlying neural mechanisms controlling this vulnerability remain unclear. Dr. Calipari’s work has identified important interactions between ovarian hormone cycles and reward system function that enhance the psychoactive effects of stimulants and promote the development of addictive behaviors. Understanding the female-specific factors that drive disease vulnerability and progression will be critical to expanding the efficacy of psychiatric disease treatments.

“My BBRF Grant was absolutely critical to my successful transition to independence. The funds allowed me to take risks and push the boundaries of how we understand information encoding in the brain and the findings from those studies were the foundation for future grants that have allowed this work to continue.”
2019 FREEDMAN PRIZE
HONORABLE MENTION

Dorothy Schafer, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts
Medical School

2016 BBRF Young Investigator

Dr. Dorothy Schafer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Brudnick Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Dr. Schafer’s lab investigates the role of microglia, a resident and exquisitely plastic innate immune cell of the central nervous system, in regulating neural circuit structure and function. Studies in autism spectrum disorders and neuropsychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia have now revealed an abundance of inflammatory microglia.

To gain a better understanding of how microglia regulate the development and function of neural circuits, Dr. Schafer’s lab is using cell-specific molecular genetic approaches and high-resolution imaging techniques to identify novel, disease-relevant mechanisms by which microglia function within brain circuits. In the process, they uncovered a new mechanism by which microglia ‘listen’ to changes in brain activity and subsequently remodel neural connectivity.

“This was one of the first grants that I was awarded as a new investigator. This served as a huge boost of confidence and gave me the support to pursue a new, high-risk direction in my lab. The outcome has been successful and the work has served as a foundation for exciting new scientific directions and increased funding.”
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NewYork-Presbyterian is proud to support the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Scientific Council Dinner and congratulates the 2019 Klerman & Freedman Awardees
THE BRAIN & BEHAVIOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION is committed to alleviating the suffering of mental illness by awarding grants that will lead to advances and breakthroughs in scientific research. The Foundation funds the most innovative ideas in neuroscience and psychiatry to better understand the causes and develop new ways to treat brain and behavior disorders.

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RESEARCH FOR RECOVERY

30+ years

For more than 30 years the BBRF has fostered new research pathways and transformative breakthroughs.

60k+ donors

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Since 1987 the Foundation has awarded more than $394 million to fund more than 5,700 grants.

4,700 researchers

Grants have been given to more than 4,700 leading scientists around the world.

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