



AMERICAN EPILEPSY SOCIETY ANNOUNCES EPILEPSY RESEARCH AWARDS 25 FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS AWARDED TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TALENT IN EPILEPSY RESEARCH

Chicago, Illinois (June 14, 2019)— Fellowships or grants have been awarded to 25 early career epilepsy scientists, the American Epilepsy Society (AES) announced today. Included are predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees, junior investigators establishing their independent programs, and clinicians and fellows pursuing additional training for a career in research.

“The scientific and medical communities recognize there is a shortage of researchers focused on epilepsy,” said Page Pennell, M.D., president of the American Epilepsy Society. “AES is committed to supporting early career investigators, which in turn will produce new discoveries and treatments in the years to come. Supporting junior investigators is vital given that cutbacks in research funding, particularly by government agencies, have made it extremely difficult for new investigators to secure grants needed to launch a research career and subsequently compete for larger, longer-term support from the National Institutes of Health or other sources.”

AES is one of the largest non-governmental funders for those starting their careers in epilepsy research, with over 85 percent of its grant dollars targeted to early career researchers working across the spectrum of epilepsy research from basic science through translational and clinical investigations. The program has nearly doubled in its reach from 14 awardees in 2015 to 25 awardees in 2019. The full list of 2019 awardees is available at aesnet.org/earlycareer.

AES grants are supported by generous philanthropic donations both from the public and from AES members, with additional support in the past year from LivaNova and Upsher-Smith Laboratories, LLC. Ten awards were made possible in full or in part by the generous support of other non-profit organizations, representing a shared commitment to support the future of epilepsy research. Three awards are supported in full by the Epilepsy Foundation and two by the Epilepsy Study Consortium. The Pediatric Epilepsy Research Foundation co-funded one pediatric research fellowship at 50% and two grants were supported in part by the Wishes for Elliott or the Lennox Gastaut Syndrome Foundation.

The AES is a proud partner on the Susan Spencer Clinical Research Training Fellowship and congratulates the 2019 recipient, Lisseth Burbano, MD, of the Florey Institute of Neuroscience. The award was established in honor of Susan S. Spencer, MD, a past president of AES, and was created to foster the development of investigators interested in pursuing careers in patient-oriented research. The award is made possible by the American Academy of Neurology with funding from the American Epilepsy Society, the American Brain Foundation, and the Epilepsy Foundation.

“It is a pleasure to congratulate this impressive group of talented and committed scientists,” said Eileen M. Murray, MM, CAE, executive director of the American Epilepsy Society. “Their work is an important part of our mission of advancing research and education for professionals dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of epilepsy.”

About the American Epilepsy Society

Founded in 1946, the American Epilepsy Society (AES) is a medical and scientific society whose members are dedicated to advancing research and education for preventing, treating and curing epilepsy. AES is an inclusive global forum where professionals from academia, private practice, not-for-profit, government, and industry can learn, share and grow to eradicate epilepsy and its consequences.

For more information, visit AES online at aesnet.org.

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