

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Lauren Martin
media@aesnet.org

AMERICAN EPILEPSY SOCIETY AWARDS \$1.1 MILLION IN EPILEPSY RESEARCH GRANTS

TWENTY-FIVE EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS HONORED AS 2020 FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

CHICAGO, IL (June 22, 2020) The American Epilepsy Society (AES) announced today that it has awarded \$1.1 million in epilepsy research grants and fellowships to twenty-five early career scientists committed to studying epilepsy.

“As one of the largest non-governmental funders for those starting careers in epilepsy research, AES is committed to developing the next generation of epilepsy investigators,” says William D. Gaillard, MD, President of the American Epilepsy Society. “Announcement of our latest grantees is always a proud moment. The collective talent and accomplishment represented by this year’s impressive awardees—combined with that of grantees from previous years—promises to fuel advances in epilepsy prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in years to come.”

AES research dollars support trainees, fellows, and newly independent investigators working across the full spectrum of epilepsy research, from basic science through translational and clinical research for all types of epilepsy, seizures, and related conditions. Applications are reviewed through a rigorous process built using national standards for assessment of research requests. AES member volunteers conduct the review and select the awardees.

Grants are supported in part by [philanthropic gifts and bequests](#) to the Lennox and Lombroso Fund for Research and Training and the Susan S. Spencer Fund for Clinical Research and Education. In addition, several nonprofit organizations and industry supporters provide full or partial funding of specific grants. Please join AES in thanking:

- Epilepsy Foundation
- Pediatric Epilepsy Research Foundation
- Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy
- Wishes for Elliott
- Epilepsy Study Consortium
- American Brain Foundation, in collaboration with American Academy of Neurology
- LivaNova

The American Epilepsy Society 2020 Early Career Fellowship Awardees are:

Junior Investigator Awards

\$50,000 for newly-independent investigators to support the direct costs of research, along with one year of AES membership.

Ukpong Eyo, PhD

Targeting microglial P2Y₁₂R to ameliorate febrile status epilepticus

University of Virginia

Emily Johnson, MD

Late-onset epilepsy, cognition, and biomarkers

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Award contracting still in progress*

Vaishnav Krishnan, MD, PhD

Neurodevelopmental Consequences of Fetal Anticonvulsant Exposure

Baylor College of Medicine

Elliot Smith, PhD

Interictally derived probabilistic maps of seizure onset location

University of Utah

Fraser Sparks, PhD

Adult-born granule cell microcircuit reorganization in epilepsy

Columbia University Medical Center

AES/EF Junior Investigator Award, funded in full by the Epilepsy Foundation

Leah Blank, MD

Determinants of guideline adherent therapy in newly diagnosed epilepsy

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

AES/EF Junior Investigator Award, funded in full by the Epilepsy Foundation

David Klorig, PhD

Evaluating Gene Therapy Strategies to Treat Epilepsy Using a Novel Method

Wake Forest University

Research Training Fellowship for Clinicians

Mentored support for clinical fellows or junior clinical faculty with up to \$50,000 for stipend and travel support, along with one year of AES membership.

Claire Jacobs, MD, PhD

Functional evaluation of STXBP1 variants in STXBP1-encephalopathy

Massachusetts General Hospital

Mentor: Stephen Haggarty, PhD

Jennifer Shum, MD

Functional Mapping of Language with High Gamma Electrocoricography

New York University School of Medicine
Mentor: Orrin Devinsky, MD

Steven Tobochnik, MD
Predicting epileptogenic zones by stimulation-induced seizure recruitment
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School
Mentor: Page Pennell, MD

PERF/AES Research Training Fellowship for Clinicians, funded at 50% by PERF

Tayyba Anwar, MD
Multifactorial modeling of post-neonatal epilepsy following HIE
Children's National Medical Center and Children's Research Institute
Mentor: Tammy Tsuchida, MD, PhD

CURE/AES Research Training Fellowship for Clinicians, funded at 50% by CURE

James Gugger, MD, PharmD
Free-water imaging in post-traumatic epilepsy
University of Pennsylvania
Mentor: Ramon Diaz-Arrastia MD, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Mentored research fellowships with up to \$50,000 for stipend and travel support, along with one year of AES membership.

Aswathy AmmothumKandy, PhD
Adult new born glia in human epilepsy: friend or foe?
University of Southern California
Mentor: Michael Bonaguidi, PhD

Jessica Chancey, PhD
Mechanisms of enhanced excitability in a mouse model of GEFS/Dravet syndrome
University of Texas at Austin
Mentor: MacKenzie Howard, PhD
Supported by the Lennox and Lombroso Trust for Research and Training

Ping Dong, PhD
Targeting BK calcium-activated potassium channels in absence epilepsy
Duke University
Mentor: Huanghe Yang, PhD
Supported by the Lennox and Lombroso Trust for Research and Training

Hisako Fujiwara, PhD
Predicting epilepsy surgery outcome with MEG functional connectivity
Children's Hospital Medical Center
Mentor: Jeffrey Tenney, MD, PhD

Kaoutsar Nasrallah, PhD
Role of a Hippocampal Associative Neuronal Circuit in Early Epilepsy
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Mentor: Pablo Castillo, MD, PhD

Chelsea Pernici, PhD

Longitudinal, in vivo Ca²⁺ imaging during spontaneous seizure activity

University of Utah

Mentor: Karen Wilcox, PhD

Supported by the Lennox and Lombroso Trust for Research and Training

AES Predoctoral Research Fellowships

Mentored research fellowships with up to \$30,000 for stipend and travel support, along with one year of AES membership.

Jennifer Cheng, BA

Pathogenic Mechanisms Associated with a CUX2 Missense Variant in Epilepsy

Northwestern University

Mentor: Gemma Carvill, PhD

Madelyn Haller, BA

Investigating Gliopathic Epilepsy in a Drosophila Model of PIGA Deficiency

University of Utah

Mentor: Clement Chow, PhD

Susan Nguyen, MSOT, BS

TLR4 Modulation of Dentate Inhibition and its Effect on Pattern Separation

University of California, Riverside

Mentor: Vijayalakshmi Santhakumar, PhD

AES/Wishes for Elliott Predoctoral Research Fellowship, funded at \$10,000 by Wishes for Elliott

Letonia Copeland-Hardin, BS

Characterization of gene modifiers in a mouse model of epilepsy

Northwestern University

Mentor: Jennifer Kearney, PhD

Epilepsy Study Consortium Mini-Grants, funded by ESC and administered by AES

Taneeta Ganguly, MD

Perampanel in Glioma Associated seizures - Efficacy and Safety

University of Pennsylvania

Mentor: Michael Gelfand, MD, PhD

Epilepsy Foundation Clinical Research Apprenticeship Award, funded by the Epilepsy Foundation and administered by AES

Susanna O'Kula, MD

Healthcare Utilization and Workplace Productivity in Hispanic PWE

New York University School of Medicine

Mentors: Daniel Friedman, MD, and Tanya Spruill, PhD



Susan S Spencer Clinical Research Training Fellowship, 2020-2021

Funded by the American Epilepsy Society, Epilepsy Foundation, and American Brain Foundation in collaboration with the American Academy of Neurology

Colin Ellis, MD

Polygenic Risk Transmission in Familial Epilepsy

University of Pennsylvania

Mentors: Samuel Berkovic, AC FAA FRACP FRS and Brian Litt, MD

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 the American Epilepsy Society online at aesnet.org. Join the AES social conversation by following [@AmEpilepsySoc](https://twitter.com/AmEpilepsySoc) on Twitter and use the hashtag #AES2020.

###