

**August 2015**  
**LSRF AWARDS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

The Life Sciences Research Foundation is pleased to announce recipients of three-year postdoctoral fellowships who will begin their training August 2015. The awards are the thirty-second to be made by the Foundation, which was organized in 1981 as an alternative instrument for guiding monies from industry, foundations, agencies, and other donors to the non-targeted support of outstanding young scientists. The awardees were chosen by the Foundation's Peer Review Committee from over 900 applicants. Each recipient will work at a non-profit institution of his or her choice, and each will be identified as the individual recipient of support from one of the Foundation's Sponsors.

The recipients, their institutional affiliations, and the sponsoring donors, were announced by the Foundation's Officers, Dr. Donald D. Brown, Dr. Douglas Koshland and Dr. Daniel Gottschling as follows:

**2015 Fellows**

**Richard Adeyemi, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "A system for genome-wide characterization of long non-coding RNA functions in transcriptional regulation", Brigham and Women's Hospital, laboratory of Stephen Elledge. Dr. Adeyemi received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri.

**Lorena de Mena Alvarez, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Optogenetic systems to regulate light-mediated transcription with spatiotemporal resolution", University of Florida, laboratory of Diego Rincon-Limas. Dr. de Mena Alvarez received her Ph.D. from the University of Oviedo.

**Omer Bayraktar, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Regional Astrocyte Roles in Long-term Dopaminergic Neuron Survival and Circuit Maintenance", University of California – San Francisco, laboratory of David Rowitch. Dr. Bayraktar received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon.

**Thomas Boothby, Simons Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Using water bears to identify novel methods for the dry storage of biomaterials", University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, laboratory of Robert Goldstein. Dr. Boothby received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland – College Park.

**Jacob Carlson, Lilly Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Probing the interplay between cellular surveillance and the human microbiota", Massachusetts General Hospital / Harvard Medical School, laboratory of Gary Ruvkun. Dr. Carlson received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

**Michelle Chan, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Assembling cell lineages using an evolvable barcoding strategy to map mammalian development", University of California – San Francisco, laboratory of Jonathan Weissman. Dr. Chan received her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Vikash Chauhan, xTuit Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Alleviating hypoxia to reverse suppression of anti-tumor immunity", Massachusetts Institute of Technology, laboratory of Robert Langer and Phil Sharp. Dr. Chauhan received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

**Miao-Ping Chien, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "A mammalian cell-based high-throughput screening platform for improved voltage indicators", Harvard University, laboratory of Adam Cohen. Dr. Chien received her Ph.D. from the University of California – San Diego.

**Laura Clarke, Merck Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Do defects in synapse pruning by human astrocytes underlie neurodevelopmental disorders?", Stanford University, laboratory of Ben Barres. Dr. Clarke received her Ph.D. from the University College London.

**James Dahlman, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "A high throughput screening platform for efficient in vivo gene editing and targeted therapeutics", Broad Institute, laboratory of Feng Zhang. Dr. Dahlman received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Sung Han, Washington Research Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "A neural circuit for unconditioned stimulus during fear conditioning", University of Washington, laboratory of Richard D. Palmiter. Dr. Han received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington.

**Roland Kersten, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Chemoenzymatic diversification of terpene and meroterpene natural products via substrate analogues and new terpene cyclase biochemistry", Salk Institute of Biological Studies, laboratory of Joseph P. Noel. Dr. Kersten received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Ricardo Laranjeiro, Simons Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "*C. elegans* as a model for molecular genetics analyses of exercise benefits to health aging", Rutgers University, laboratory of Monica Driscoll. Dr. Laranjeiro received his Ph.D. from the University College London.

**Laura Lavery, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Elucidating origins and function of mCH methylation in the mature mammalian brain", Baylor College of Medicine, laboratory of Huda Y. Zoghbi. Dr. Lavery received her Ph.D. from the University of California – San Francisco.

**Li Li, Life Sciences Research Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Mapping free energy landscape of RNA dynamics", Massachusetts General Hospital, laboratory of Jack Szostak. Dr. Li received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Federica Lucantonio, Life Sciences Research Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "The importance of serotonin for reward and punishment processing and its role in depression", Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, laboratory of Jeremiah Y. Cohen. Dr. Lucantonio received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

**Dipti Nayak, Simons Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Synthetic biology and lab-based evolution for methanogenesis from non-natural substrates", University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, laboratory of William Metcalf. Dr. Nayak received her Ph.D. from Harvard University.

**Lena Pernas, Simons Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Manipulation of mitochondrial fusion: a new microbial strategy?", University of Padua, laboratory of Luca Scorrano. Dr. Pernas received her Ph.D. from Stanford University.

**Jonathan Phillips, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Utilizing unicellular organisms to characterize Hippo pathway regulation", Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, laboratory of Duoqia Pan. Dr. Phillips received his Ph.D. from Rice University.

**Michael Raissig, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Stomata formation in grasses: unique developmental trajectories and their physiological implications", Stanford University, laboratory of Dominique Bergmann. Dr. Raissig received his Ph.D. from the University of Zurich.

**Emilie Rennie, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Synthesis and functions of an essential class of plant glycosphingolipids", University of Nebraska - Lincoln, laboratory of Edgar Cahoon. Dr. Rennie received her Ph.D. from the University of California – Berkeley/LBNL.

**Alejo Rodriguez-Fraticelli, Merck Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "High-throughput clonal analysis at the single-cancer stem cell level using in vivo barcoding and in situ sequencing", Boston Children's Hospital / Harvard University, laboratory of Fernando Camargo. Dr. Rodriguez-Fraticelli received his Ph.D. from the Centro de Biologia Molecular "Severo Ochoa".

**Benjamin Ross, Simons Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Investigation of interbacterial competition via type VI secretion between members of the gut microbiota", University of Washington, laboratory of Joseph Mougous. Dr. Ross received his Ph.D. from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

**Tasha Santiago-Rodriguez, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Revealing the microbiome and virome of dental calculus through paleomicrobiomics", California Polytechnic State University, laboratory of Raul J. Cano. Dr. Santiago-Rodriguez received her Ph.D. from the University of Puerto Rico.

**Peter Sudmant, Genentech Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Temporal patterns and regulation of splicing programs in mammalian development", Massachusetts Institute of Technology, laboratory of Christopher B. Burge. Dr. Sudmant received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington.

**Deborah Thurtle, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Identification and characterization of boundary effectors to insulate nuclear receptor transcriptional regulation", University of California – San Francisco, laboratory of Keith Yamamoto. Dr. Thurtle received her Ph.D. from the University of California - Berkeley.

**Josep Vilarrasa-Blasi, Simons Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Identification and characterization of water sensing mechanisms in plants", Carnegie Institution for Science, laboratory of José Dinneny. Dr. Vilarrasa-Blasi received his Ph.D. from the Center for Research in Agricultural Genomics.

**Ekaterina Vinogradova, Pfizer Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Expanding the toolbox of activity based protein profiling (ABPP)", Scripps Research Institute, laboratory of Benjamin Cravatt. Dr. Vinogradova received her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Daniel Wagner, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Deciphering the transcriptional dynamics of lineage acquisition in the zebrafish neural tube by single-cell analysis", Harvard University, laboratories of Sean Megason and Allon Klein. Dr. Wagner received his Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Christopher Whidden, Simons Foundation Fellow:**

Proposal entitled "Developing statistical algorithms to infer the evolutionary history of viruses, antibodies, and cancer cells", Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, laboratory of Frederick Matesen IV. Dr. Whidden received his Ph.D. from Dalhousie University.