



PRESS RELEASE

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DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Medical Research Program

For Immediate Release

Three Multidisciplinary Teams Selected to Receive Grants Totaling \$6.75 Million to Address Challenging Questions in Human Disease

Research will focus on colorectal cancer, ovarian and pancreatic cancer, and metabolic disorders

New York, NY – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation announced today that three research teams have been selected to receive five-year grants of \$2.25 million each through its Clinical Interfaces Award Program. The teams are led by Andrew Feinberg, M.D., M.P.H., of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Michael V. Seiden, M.D., Ph.D., of Massachusetts General Hospital; and Douglas C. Wallace, Ph.D., of University of California, Irvine. (See page 3 for list of project titles and teams.)

The Clinical Interfaces Award Program supports collaborations between researchers in clinical research and other scientific disciplines to address issues in human health and disease that require a multidisciplinary approach to resolve. To be eligible for funding, research teams must consist of at least three key investigators with advanced degrees whose primary areas of expertise lie in different disciplines.

“This award enables us to support innovative researchers willing to break out of the single-discipline project mindset to pioneer new approaches to treating human disease,” said Joan E. Spero, president of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. “We believe there is tremendous opportunity for new breakthroughs when numerous disciplines converge to tackle important clinical research questions.”

Dr. Feinberg’s team of eight experts in molecular genetics, gastroenterology, epidemiology, community health, pathology, health policy and bioethics will be developing and validating a test for colorectal cancer risk. Under the second grant, Dr. Seiden’s team of five researchers in medical oncology, gynecologic oncology, pathology, pharmacology and radiology will develop and assess a novel imaging approach to evaluate ovarian and pancreatic cancer. The third grant will support the research of Dr. Wallace’s team of five experts in biological chemistry, ecology and evolutionary biology, physiology and biophysics, chemistry, and biomedical engineering, which will examine the role of mitochondrial DNA in Type 2 diabetes and other metabolic disorders.

The Clinical Interfaces Award Program's 2005 competition attracted 100 pre-proposals from teams of investigators across the country. A panel of 16 experts invited 20 teams to submit full proposals and then recommended the strongest proposals for funding.

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, wildlife conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.

The foundation's Medical Research Program has committed more than \$120 million since 1998 to strengthen and support clinical research, which advances the translation of basic biomedical discoveries into new treatments, preventions and cures for human diseases. To learn more about the Medical Research Program or to receive competition announcements, visit www.ddcf.org/mrp.

Doris Duke Clinical Interfaces Award Program
Grant Recipients in 2005
(listed alphabetically by team leader)

“Development of the First Test for Common Cancer Risk in the General Population”

Team Leader:

- Andrew P. Feinberg, M.D., M.P.H., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Key Investigators:

- Francis M. Giardiello, M.D.
- Elizabeth A. Platz, Sc.D., M.P.H.
- Marica Cruz-Correa, M.D., Ph.D.
- Christi Iacobuzio-Donahue, M.D., Ph.D.
- Holly Taylor, Ph.D., M.P.H.
- Benjamin Wilfond, M.D.
- Hengmi Cui, Ph.D.

“Clinical Application of Molecular Imaging to Oncology”

Team Leader:

- Michael V. Seiden, M.D., Ph.D., Massachusetts General Hospital

Key Investigators:

- Arlan Fuller, M.D.
- Jeffrey Supko, Ph.D.
- Debra Bell, M.D.
- Mukesh G. Harisinghani, M.D.

“A Mitochondrial Basis for Metabolic Syndrome”

Team Leader:

- Douglas C. Wallace, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine

Key Investigators:

- J. Jay Gargus, M.D., Ph.D.
- F. Sherwood Rowland, Ph.D.
- Donald R. Blake, Ph.D.
- Bruce J. Tromberg, Ph.D.