



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lymphoma Research Foundation Awards \$1.2 Million for
Blood Cancer Research**

LRF Expands Research Funding Focus Areas with 2015 Grant Allocations

New York, NY —The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) – the nation’s largest non-profit organization devoted to funding innovative lymphoma research – today announced that it has awarded grants totaling \$1.2 million, which are targeted at retaining the best and brightest young medical minds in the field of lymphoma research. The grants provide support for projects aimed at gaining a better understanding of chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, and diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma.

“The Lymphoma Research Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board was pleased to see the scale and scope represented by this year’s grant applications,” said Dr. John P. Leonard, Chair of LRF’s Scientific Advisory Board and the Richard T. Silver Distinguished Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology and Associate Dean for Clinical Research at Weill Cornell Medical College. “The Foundation’s commitment to lymphoma research has helped to significantly advance the field and the knowledge that is sure to come out of this year’s recent round of funding has untold potential for impact on the lymphoma community going forward.”

In addition to the research grants, the Foundation also funded its second class of medical scholars for its Clinical Research Mentoring Program. The Clinical Research Mentoring Program offers mentoring and education to hematology/oncology fellows and junior faculty dedicated to clinical research in the field of non-Hodgkin and Hodgkin lymphoma. Program participants, called LRF Scholars, attend and participate in a week long intensive introductory workshop and follow-up programming intended to enhance the ability of the LRF Scholars to successfully design and administer clinical research studies and successfully apply for future grant funding. Entries for LRF’s Career Development Award doubled last year’s applications totals, while this year’s mentoring class grew by over one-third.

“The Lymphoma Research Foundation is dedicated to eradicating lymphoma through our robust research portfolio; we are proud that we not only attract the best lymphoma investigators, but that we are able to fund them and accelerate their careers toward discovering improved therapies and hopefully a cure,” said Meghan Gutierrez, Chief Executive Officer of the Lymphoma Research Foundation. “Just as critical to the total funding amount is the breadth of focus towards which we are now able to dedicate resources; our focus is on providing the most hope to as many patients, families, and caregivers as possible, and with this grant funding, we are able to do just that.”

Recommendations for research funding were made by the LRF Scientific Advisory Board, which is comprised of the world’s leading lymphoma researchers and oncologists. The award recommendations were then approved by the LRF Board of Directors. Grantees include:

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Career Development Award 2015 (\$225,000 each over three years)

Anita Kumar, M.D. - Assistant Attending - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center - New York, NY, United States

Kami Maddocks, MD - Assistant Professor-Clinical - The Ohio State University - Columbus, OH, United States

Rayne Rouce, M.D. - Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinical Instructor - Baylor College of Medicine - Houston, TX, United States

Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants 2015 (\$105,000 each over two years)

Andrea Rabellino, Ph.D - Postdoctoral Researcher II - UT Southwestern Medical Center - Dallas, TX, United States

Eric Smith, M.D., Ph.D. - Medical Oncology Fellow - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center - New York, NY, United States

Thirunavukkarasu Velusamy, Ph.D. - Research Fellow - University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI, United States

Matthew Walker, Ph.D. - Post-Doctoral Research Associate - The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Chapel Hill, NC, United States

Jiyuan Zhang, Ph. D. - Post Doctoral Research Fellow - Columbia University Medical Center - New York, NY, United States

LRF Clinical Research Mentoring Program 2015 (\$10,000 each over two years)

Danielle Marie-Underkoffler Brander, M.D. - Medical Instructor in Hematologic Malignancies - Duke University Medical Center - Durham, NC, United States

Carla Casulo, MD - Assistant Professor - University of Rochester - Rochester, NY, United States

Solomon Graf, M.D. - Senior Fellow - University of Washington - Seattle, WA, United States

Reem Karmali, M.D. - Assistant Professor - Rush University Medical Center - Chicago, IL, United States

David Matthew Kurtz, M.D. - Postdoctoral Fellow - Stanford University - Palo Alto, CA, United States

Craig Portell, M.D. - Assistant Professor of Medicine - University of Virginia - Charlottesville, VA, United States

Jason Westin, MD - Assistant Professor - University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center - Houston, TX, United States

Victor Yazbeck, M.D. - Faculty - Virginia Commonwealth University - Richmond, VA, United States

For more information about lymphoma or the Foundation's research portfolio, visit the LRF website: lymphoma.org/research.



About the Lymphoma Research Foundation

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) is the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to funding innovative research and serving the lymphoma community through a comprehensive series of education programs, outreach initiatives and patient services. To date, LRF has awarded more than \$55 million in lymphoma-specific research.

For additional information on LRF's research, education and services, visit lymphoma.org.

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