The Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation is committed to effecting permanent positive change in the lives of the residents of Greater Boston, particularly individuals and families in economically disadvantaged communities. Today, three generations of the Smith family oversee the Foundation, stewarding approximately $15 million annually in grants aimed at promoting greater health, educational attainment, and economic mobility. In the area of health, the Foundation supports the advancement of biomedical research and the expansion of access to high-quality health care at safety net institutions serving low-income individuals and communities of Greater Boston.

In 1991, the Smith Family Foundation contracted with The Medical Foundation at Health Resources in Action to create a grantmaking program that would identify and support promising junior faculty to find breakthroughs in such areas as AIDS/HIV, cancer, heart disease, diabetes or neuroscience. Since 2008, the Award has broadened to support newly independent faculty engaged in basic biomedical science as well as physics, chemistry and engineering with a focus on biomedicine. The Awards are currently in the amount of $300,000 over three years.

Over the past 30 years, the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research has helped launch the careers of 181 outstanding scientists with support totaling $38.3 million.

The following is a listing of all Award Recipients in alphabetical order with current contact information as well as the title of the funded research project. The Smith Family is extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments of its Awardees and is honored to provide the critical support for their newly established research programs.
Cristina Aguayo-Mazzucato, M.D., Ph.D.  
(2021 Award Recipient)  
Targeting Beta-Cell Senescence in Diabetes  
Joslin Diabetes Center  
cristina.aguayo-mazzucato@joslin.harvard.edu

Judith Agudo, Ph.D.  
(2019 Award Recipient)  
Novel platform to increase dendritic cell function and antigen-specific T cell responses to cancer  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Judith_Agudo@dfci.harvard.edu

Mark L. Andermann, Ph.D.  
(2012 Award Recipient)  
Cortical Networks Guiding Hunger-Dependent Attention to Food Cues  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
manderma@bidmc.harvard.edu

Zolt P. Arany, M.D., Ph.D.  
(2008 Award Recipient)  
Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Gamma 1alpha (PGC-1alpha) and Cardiac Angiogenesis  
University of Pennsylvania  
zarany@mail.med.upenn.edu

Scott A. Armstrong, M.D., Ph.D.  
(2004 Award Recipient)  
Multi-step Pathogenesis of MLL-rearranged Leukemias  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
armstros@mskcc.org

Emily Patricia Balskus, Ph.D.  
(2011 Award Recipient)  
Understanding and Preventing the Production of Disease-Associated Metabolites by the Human Gut Microbiota  
Harvard University  
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Jennifer Benanti, Ph.D.  
(2011 Award Recipient)  
Mapping the Proteolytic Regulatory Network that Controls Cell Division  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
Jennifer.Benanti@umassmed.edu

Leslie J. Berg, Ph.D.  
(1993 Award Recipient)  
Analysis of the Tsk tyrosine Kinase in Transgenic Mice  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
leslie.berg@umassmed.edu

Sudha Biddinger, M.D., Ph.D.  
(2010 Award Recipient)  
Regulation of the LDLR by Insulin and Diabetes  
Boston Children's Hospital  
sudha.biddinger@childrens.harvard.edu

Jonathan S. Bogan, M.D.  
(2000 Award Recipient)  
Role of ARF Proteins in GLUT4 Trafficking  
Yale School of Medicine  
jonathan.bogan@yale.edu

Laurie A. Boyer, Ph.D.  
(2009 Award Recipient)  
Non-coding RNA as a Regulator of Cell Fate through Functional Interaction with Polycomb Group Proteins  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
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James E. Bradner, M.D.  
(2010 Award Recipient)  
Chemical Inhibition of Bromodomains in Cancer  
Novartis Institutes of BioMedical Resaerch  
James.bradner@novartis.com
David K Breslow, Ph.D.
(2018 Award Recipient)
Deconstructing the Cellular Antenna: Primary Cilium Disassembly and Control of Cell Growth
Yale University
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Alan Brown, Ph.D.
(2018 Award Recipient)
Structural Basis of Intraflagellar Transport
Harvard Medical School
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Jessica A Cardin, Ph.D.
(2012 Award Recipient)
GABAergic Contributions to Neural and Cognitive Deficits in a Genetic Model of Schizophrenia.
Yale University
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William A. Carlezon, Ph.D.
(1999 Award Recipient)
Neural Substrates of Aversion to Addictive Drugs
McLean Hospital
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Francis Ka‐Ming Chan, Ph.D.
(2003 Award Recipient)
TNF‐Induced Programmed Cell Death in Immune Responses
University of Massachusetts Medical School
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Daniel L. Chase, Ph.D.
(2006 Award Recipient)
Electrophysiological Analysis of Novel Dopamine Signaling Mechanisms in C. elegans
Central Connecticut State University
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Abhishek Chatterjee, Ph.D.
(2013 Award Recipient)
A Chemical Toolset to Investigate and Engineer Viral Infection
Boston College
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Iain M. Cheeseman, Ph.D.
(2007 Award Recipient)
Proteomic and Functional Dissection of the Human Kinetochore
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Jianzhu Chen, Ph.D.
(1995 Award Recipient)
Molecular Analysis of Memory B Cell Differentiation
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Jerry Lu Chen, Ph.D.
(2016 Award Recipient)
Circuit Mechanisms for Long‐Range Communication in the Neocortex
Boston University
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James Jeiwen Chou, Ph.D.
(2003 Award Recipient)
Structural Study of the Membrane‐Associated State of BID for Understanding BID‐Induced Damage of Mitochondrial Wall during Apoptosis
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Damon Alistair Clark, Ph.D.
(2013 Award Recipient)
Dissecting Motor Pattern Generating Circuits in Walking Drosophila
Yale University
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(1997 Award Recipient)  
*Regulation of Apolipoprotein B Secretion*  
Gilead Sciences  
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(1998 Award Recipient)  
*Endothelial Protease-Activated Receptors*  
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Paul B. Cook, Ph.D.  
(2000 Award Recipient)  
*Modulation of Glycinergic Inhibition in the Vertebrate*  
Integrated Project Management  
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David Daniel Cox, Ph.D.  
(2013 Award Recipient)  
*Learning How to See: a Biological and Computational Investigation of How Visual Cortex Learns and Develops*  
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Daniel H. Cox, Ph.D.  
(2000 Award Recipient)  
*Characterization of the Ca2+ Binding Sites of the Large-Conductance Ca2+-Activated K+ Channel*  
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Michael Crickmore, Ph.D.  
(2015 Award Recipient)  
*Molecular and Circuit Analyses of a Motivational State*  
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Alexei Degterev, Ph.D.  
(2007 Award Recipient)  
*Molecular Mechanism and Oncogenic Regulation of Cellular Necrosis*  
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Walter E. Demkowicz, Ph.D.  
(1995 Award Recipient)  
*Immunotherapy for AIDS: Transduction of HIV-1-Specific T-cell Receptor Genes*  
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Li Deng, Ph.D.  
(1999 Award Recipient)  
*A Chemical Approach Toward Understanding DNA Modification*  
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Stephanie Dougan, Ph.D.  
(2015 Award Recipient)  
*In Situ Delivery of Neoantigens and Targeted Radiation in a Therapeutic Vaccine for Pancreatic Cancer*  
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Elaine A. Elion, Ph.D.  
(1992 Award Recipient)  
*Mechanisms of Negative Growth Control in Saccharomyces cerevisiae*  
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Patrick T. Ellinor, M.D., Ph.D.  
(2003 Award Recipient)  
*The Genetics of Atrial Fibrillation: Exploration of Endophenotypes*  
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Sean Elliott, Ph.D.
(2004 Award Recipient)
Thioredoxins, Thioredoxin Reductase adn the Mechanisms of Oxidative Stress
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(2002 Award Recipient)
Circadian Rhythms and their Synchronization in Drosophila
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(July 1993 Award Recipient)
Using Yeast to Identify New Tumor Suppressor Genes

Jerry Faust, Ph.D.
(1992 Award Recipient)
Cloning and Initial Characterization of a Kidney Specific Transporter for Mevalonic Acid
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Steven M. Finkbeiner, M.D., Ph.D.
(1998 Award Recipient)
Molecular Mechanisms of Huntington's Disease
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Matthew L. Freedman, M.D.
(2006 Award Recipient)
A Genome-Wide Admixture Scan to Identify Genetic Determinants of Basal-Like Breast Cancer
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(2004 Award Recipient)
Characterizing Core Components of the Glial Cell Machinery
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(2019 Award Recipient)
Defining Mechanisms of Pathogenesis of the “Brain-eating Amoeba”
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Regulation of CTCL Migration to Skin via CLA
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Understanding Beta Sheet Structure within the Membrane Bilayer
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Maintenance of Genome Stability by the Hippo Tumor Suppressor Pathway
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Exploring the Function of Sleep in Neural Circuit Formation
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*Building a Mechanistic Understanding of Bacterial Cell Wall Growth using High-Resolution Dynamic Imaging*  
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(1998 Award Recipient)  
*Mena Function in Tumor Cell Biology and Metatasis*  
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(1996 Award Recipient)  
*Regulation of Cell Growth by Cellular EIA-Like Proteins*  
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*Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Sensory System Development*  
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*Thymocyte Transformation in the DN to DP Transition*  
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(2007 Award Recipient)  
*Stimulated by Retinoic Acid-6 (Stra6) and Insulin Resistance*  
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*Structural Analysis of the Shaker Potassium Channel*  
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(2018 Award Recipient)  
*Exploring the Role of a Novel Population of Microglia in Alzheimer's Disease*  
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*Purification and Analysis of a p53-Targeted Ubiquitin Ligase*  
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*Dissection of Toxoplasma gondii Cell Division, an Opportunistic Pathogen Causing Myocarditis and Encephalitis*  
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(2015 Award Recipient)  
*Genetic Networks of Antibiotic Resistance in Neisseria gonorrhoeae*  
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Marc-Jan Gubbels, Ph.D.  
(2006 Award Recipient)  
*Dissection of Toxoplasma gondii Cell Division, an Opportunistic Pathogen Causing Myocarditis and Encephalitis*  
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Piyush Gupta, Ph.D.  
(2011 Award Recipient)  
*Functional Dissection of Invasive Mesenchymal Cancer Cells*  
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Jeanne A. Hardy, Ph.D.  
(2005 Award Recipient)  
*Designing Allosteric Switches in Caspases*  
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(2017 Award Recipient)  
*Determining the Impact of Therapy-Induced Mutations on Tumor Heterogeneity and Evolution of Acquired Drug Resistance*  
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Akiko Hata, Ph.D.  
(2001 Award Recipient)  
*Mechanisms of TGF-ß Signal Transduction*  
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(1998 Award Recipient)  
*Tyrosine Maturation and Degradation in Normal Melanocytes and Melanoma Cells*  
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Michael J. Higley, M.D., Ph.D.  
(2010 Award Recipient)  
*Neuromodulation of Synaptic Transmission in the Prefrontal Cortex*  
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Philip W. Hinds, Ph.D.  
(1993 Award Recipient)  
*The Retinoblastoma Protein Pathway in Differentiation, Senescence and Cancer*  
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Joel Hirschhorn, M.D., Ph.D.  
(2002 Award Recipient)  
*Comprehensive Evaluation of Reported Associations between Common Gene Variants and Obesity*  
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Andreas Hochwagen, Ph.D.  
(2007 Award Recipient)  
*Investigating the Role of Checkpoint Adaptation in Anti-Cancer Drug Resistance*  
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Ya-Chieh Hsu, Ph.D.  
(2014 Award Recipient)  
*Investigation of How Cell Types from Diverse Lineages Coordinate Changes and Behaviors during Regeneration*  
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Jianming Hu, M.D., Ph.D.  
(1999 Award Recipient)  
*Host Factors Required for Hepatitis B Virus Assembly and Replication*  
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Paul Huang, M.D., Ph.D.  
(1994 Award Recipient)  
*Vascular Function in Nitric Oxide Synthase Mutant Mice*  
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Jun R. Huh, Ph.D.  
(2013 Award Recipient)  
*Bacterial Regulators of Immunity and their Modulation of Host Transcription Factors*  
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Craig P. Hunter, Ph.D.
(1997 Award Recipient)
Identifying the Regulatory Targets of pal-1
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Tyler Jacks, Ph.D.
(1992 Award Recipient)
Functional Analysis of the p53 Gene
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Ankur Jain, Ph.D.
(2018 Award Recipient)
Identifying Cellular Suppressors of RNA Aggregation
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James Jeanne, Ph.D.
(2019 Award Recipient)
Cracking the neural code for perception by writing spikes into neural circuits
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David Jeruzalmi, Ph.D.
(2002 Award Recipient)
Structure and Function of Biological Assemblies
The City College of New York
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Karla R Kaun, Ph.D.
(2014 Award Recipient)
Neuro-molecular Mechanisms Underlying Alcoholism
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Aleksandar David Kostic, Ph.D.
(2016 Award Recipient)
Immunological Investigation of Human Type 1 Diabetes-Related Microbiomes in the Gnotobiotic Autoimmune Diabetic Mouse
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Philip J. Kranzusch, Ph.D.
(2016 Award Recipient)
Mechanism of Activation of a New Human RNA Second Messenger Signaling Enzyme
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Jordan A. Kreidberg, M.D., Ph.D.
(1995 Award Recipient)
A Transgenic Mouse Model of Wilms' Tumor
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Joshua Kritzer, Ph.D., M.Sc.
(2009 Award Recipient)
Targeting Hsp90 with Small Cyclic Peptides
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Andrew Kruse, Ph.D.
(2015 Award Recipient)
A New Approach to Targeting GPCRs
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Galit Lahav, Ph.D.
(2005 Award Recipient)
p53 Dynamics and Control of Cell Fate
Harvard Medical School
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David Lambright, Ph.D.
(1996 Award Recipient)
*Structural Determinants of G Protein Coupled Signal Transduction*
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Matthew J. LaVoie, Ph.D.
(2005 Award Recipient)
*The Role of Protein Modification and Dysfunction in Parkinson’s Disease*
Brigham and Women's Hospital
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Nathan D. Lawson, Ph.D.
(2003 Award Recipient)
*Genetic Dissection of the Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Signaling Pathway*
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Michael Jungho Lee, Ph.D.
(2014 Award Recipient)
*Micro-Environmental Regulation of Network State and Drug Sensitivity in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer*
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Sanghyun Lee, Ph.D.
(2021 Award Recipient)
*A Focused Approach to Identify Entry Factors for Pathogenic Enteric Viruses Using CRISPR Activation Screening*
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Jacqueline A. Lees, Ph.D.
(1995 Award Recipient)
*The Role of pRB and E2F in Tumorigenesis*
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Bernardo Lemos, Ph.D.
(2013 Award Recipient)
*Heterochromatin Variation, Bisphenol A sensitivity, and Environmental Epigenomics*
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Anthony Letai, M.D., Ph.D.
(2004 Award Recipient)
*Decoding BCL-2 Family Interactions to Promote Cancer Cell Death*
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Michael Levin, Ph.D.
(2001 Award Recipient)
*The Role of Katp ion Channels in Embryonic Development*
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Laura Lewis, Ph.D.
(2019 Award Recipient)
*Whole-brain dopamine dynamics underlying sleep and wakefulness*
Boston University
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Gene-Wei Li, Ph.D.
(2016 Award Recipient)
*Breaking the Robustness of Bacterial Translation*
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Rong Li, Ph.D.
(1995 Award Recipient)
*The Role of Cdc42 in Actin Cytoskeleton Assembly*
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Liang Liang, Ph.D.  
(2021 Award Recipient)  
*Early Visual Centers Coordinate to Shape the Flow of Information*  
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Maofu Liao, Ph.D.  
(2016 Award Recipient)  
*Cryo-EM Studies of Multidrug Resistance Conferred by Human ABC Transporters*  
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Stuart Licht, Ph.D.  
(2002 Award Recipient)  
*Interactions of Sulfonyluria Anti-Diabetic Agents with the ATP-Sensitive Potassium Channel*  
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Tami Lieberman, Ph.D.  
(2018 Award Recipient)  
*Determinants of Bacterial Colonization of Facial Skin*  
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Klaus Lindpaintner, M.D.  
(1993 Award Recipient)  
*Molecular Genetics of Hypertension and Stroke*  
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Myra Lipes, M.D.  
(1994 Award Recipient)  
*A Transgenic Approach to the Study of Tolerance Induction in Type I Diabetes*  
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Joseph J. Loparo, Ph.D.  
(2011 Award Recipient)  
*Exploring the Molecular Mechanisms of Translesion DNA Synthesis through Single-Molecule Microscopy*  
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Bradford B. Lowell, M.D., Ph.D.  
(1994 Award Recipient)  
*The B3-Adrenergic Receptor: A Gene Knockout Analysis of Function*  
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Gavin MacBeath, Ph.D.  
(2002 Award Recipient)  
*Towards the System-Wide Study of Neuronally-Expressed PDZ Domains*  
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Sibongile Mafu, Ph.D.  
(2018 Award Recipient)  
*Discovery and Mechanism of Plant-Derived Antifungals*  
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Amity Lynn Manning, Ph.D.  
(2017 Award Recipient)  
*Epigenetic Regulation of Mitotic Fidelity*  
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Katherine M. Martien, M.D.  
(2000 Award Recipient)  
*The Efficacy of Valproic Acid in the Treatment of Autism Associated with Regression and/or Severe Sleep Disturbance*  
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Steven A. McCarroll, Ph.D.  
(2010 Award Recipient)  
*Finding the Human Genome’s Missing Pieces*  
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Andrea I. McClatchey, Ph.D.  
(1999 Award Recipient)  
*Identification of the Molecular Function of the NF2 Tumor Suppressor, Merlin*  
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Kara Lavige McKinley, Ph.D.  
(2021 Award Recipient)  
*Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Uterine Regeneration*  
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David E. Moller, M.D.  
(1992 Award Recipient)  
*Molecular Genetic Analysis of Candidate P.O. Genes for Insulin Resistance*  
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Babak Momeni, Ph.D.  
(2017 Award Recipient)  
*Elucidating the Molecular Mechanisms of Microbial Interactions Using Tn-Seq*  
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Martin G. Myers, M.D., Ph.D.  
(1998 Award Recipient)  
*Molecular Determinants of Leptin Receptor/Jak2 Signaling*  
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Sarah E. O’Connor, Ph.D.  
(2003 Award Recipient)  
*Human Biosynthesis of Alkaloids: Chemical Inducers of Parkinson’s Disease*  
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Jose Ordovas-Montanes, Ph.D.  
(2019 Award Recipient)  
*Inflammatory Memory and Adaptation in Human Intestinal Epithelial Stem Cells*  
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Lauren Orefice, Ph.D.  
(2019 Award Recipient)  
*Development, Function and Dysfunction of Peripheral Sensory Neurons: Insights for Autism Spectrum Disorders*  
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Noah Wolcott Palm, Ph.D.  
(2016 Award Recipient)  
*A Universal Genetic Toolkit to Illuminate Host-Microbiota Interactions*  
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Suzanne Paradis, Ph.D.  
(2008 Award Recipient)  
*Dissecting the Function of Semaphorin 4B in Excitatory and Inhibitory Synapse Formation*  
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Sareh Parangi, M.D.  
(1999 Award Recipient)  
Antiangiogenic Therapy, A Novel Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer  
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(2005 Award Recipient)  
Retinal Coding of Visual Information in Glaucomatous Eyes  
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(1999 Award Recipient)  
Neurotrophins and Cocaine Addiction  
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(2002 Award Recipient)  
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(2002 Award Recipient)  
Molecular Diagnostics for Cancer Metastasis  
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(2006 Award Recipient)  
Regulation of Stem Cells for Regeneration in Planarians  
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Nicholas Rhind, Ph.D.  
(2001 Award Recipient)  
The Role of Induced Recombination in the Fission Yeast S-phase DNA Damage Checkpoint  
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Identifying the Factors Required for mRNA Localization During Metazoan Development  
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Cancer Protection by the Down Syndrome Candidate Region-1 Gene  
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The Role of Regulated Protein Translation in Synapse Formation and Spine Growth
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Chromosome Segregation in Vertebrates: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding Kinetochore Function and Centromeric Cohesion
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Mapping the Uncharted: Encodable Chemistry to Discover the Role of Glycation in Disease
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A Biophysical Toolkit to Explore Bacteria Chemotaxis
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Function of the Molecular Diversity of Neuronal Receptors
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Discovery of Small Molecules which Disrupt Protein-Protein Interactions
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Harnessing the Power of the Anti-HIV Protein APOBEC3G
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*The Dishevelled Gene Product and the Establishment of Dorso-Ventral Polarity in Xenopus Embryos*  
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*A Novel Pathway for Lipid Antigen Presentation by CD1 Molecules*  
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*Sources, Trends and Effects of Immunotoxic Perfluorinated Compounds*  
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*Uncovering the Role of Epigenetic Programs in Glioblastoma*  
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hBUB1, an Alternate Target for p53 Inactivation
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Specification of Neuronal Cell Identities during Drosophila Embryogenesis
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The Role of Protein Kinase C in Integrin-Mediated Tumor Invasion
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Role of Protein Turnover Pathways in Aneuploid Cells
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Targeting IkappaB Kinase in Dendritic Cells to Prevent Pancreatic Cancer
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Elucidating Neural Circuits Underlying Decision-Making in Rodents
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Regulation of Anaphylactic IgE Promoting Tfh13 Cell Subset in Allergic Sensitization
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Genetic Analysis of Cell-Cycle Regulation and Checkpoint Control
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Molecular Analysis of Fastlane, a Novel Gene Required for Specific Axon Guidance
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A Transgenic and Proteomic Analysis of Olivocochlear System Function and Development
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Intrinsic and Extrinsic Regulators of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Function  
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Transcriptional Control of Hepatic Gluconeogenesis by Twist-1  
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Activity-Based Proteomic Approaches to Investigate Aging in C. Elegans  
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Synaptic Mechanisms of Chemical Stimulus Encoding  
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Hepatic Stellate Cells Instruct Lymphoid Progenitors to Home to the Thymus  
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