



Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation
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2010 JMNMF RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARD RESULTS

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation was extremely pleased to congratulate five notable recipients in the highly-competitive 2010 Research Scholar Award (RSA) program! These promising graduate students are to be highly commended for the quality of their applications, specific areas of research to be conducted and the potential for highly significant outcomes to benefit the entire academic, scientific, clinical and patient communities. The Foundation is very proud of all recipients at the outset of this award and believe quite firmly in them and their graduate/doctoral Director's oversight, that tremendous strides can result in our collective battle against melanoma.

Earning the prestigious JMNMF – Research Scholar Award in 2010:

Ethan Abel	Thomas Jefferson Univ. Kimmel Cancer Center
William Damsky	Yale University
Erick Scott	University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Gai Yan	Johns Hopkins University Sidney Kimmel Cancer Ctr.
Maya Ziglar	University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

*(Synopses of research areas to follow in separate releases)

The Foundation's RSA program's primary objective is to give recognition and support to outstanding graduate students, and their institutions, that are actively involved in melanoma research. We want to encourage the best and brightest of our young scientists to make melanoma research the focus of their academic training and, hopefully, their long-term career path. We've experienced tremendous growth in this valuable program in both depth and breadth of funding and the diversity of candidates and institutions participating. As a reflection of the program's success and interest generated in the melanoma research community, we're extremely pleased to continue expansion of the program with a 25% increase in the number of awards funded.

These "Awards" continue to grow interest in melanoma research at a grass roots level, at cancer institutes across the country. Similarly, our esteemed JMNMF Research Scholar Advisory Panel, essential in the Award selection process, has also expanded to include world-renown research professionals who closely evaluated our 24 candidates from 16 prominent academic/research centers in the U.S. for the 2010 program. We take this opportunity to also recognize the panel:

Rhoda M. Alani, M.D.
Herbert Mescon Professor and Chair
Dermatologist-in-Chief
Department of Dermatology
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Meenhard Herlyn, D.V.M., D.Sc.
Professor and Program Leader
Molecular and Cellular Oncogenesis Program
Associate Director for Translational Research
Wistar Institute Cancer Center
The Wistar Institute
Philadelphia, PA

John M. Kirkwood, M.D.
Usher Professor of Medicine and Dermatology
Director, Melanoma and Skin Cancer Program
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Vice Chair for Clinical Research, Dept of Med.
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Hillman Cancer Research Center
Pittsburgh, PA

All 24 RSA candidates were objectively evaluated in two stages utilizing a quantifiable rating spreadsheet tool: First, independently by the Research Scholar Advisory Panel members; and, Secondly, on an independent basis by the Foundation's RSA Committee members. Independent results for both groups were then separately compiled and utilized by the RSA Committee for final awards discussions and selection.

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation

...the voice for melanoma prevention, detection, care and cure



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Five broad evaluation categories included: Scope & Innovation; Feasibility; Organization; Future Collaboration & Application; and, Overall Panel/Committee Recommendations of individual applicants. These categories had specific individual areas to incorporate in scoring determinations to assign candidates' metrics. Though difficult, the final evaluations, and awards, are the result of a broad collective analysis and the Foundation is very pleased as the process continues to refine and improve in each successive award year.

The following academic/melanoma research centers participated in the 2010 Award application:

Dartmouth College Norris Cotton Cancer Center	University of Iowa
Johns Hopkins University Sidney Kimmel Cancer Ctr.	University of North Carolina
Penn State University Milton Hershey Cancer Center (2)	University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Purdue University (2)	University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (4)
Roswell Park Cancer Institute	University of Utah Huntsman Cancer Institute
Thomas Jefferson Univ. Kimmel Cancer Center	Washington University
University of California-Irvine Chao Family Institute	Yale University (4)
University of Florida Moffitt Cancer Center	Yeshiva University Albert Einstein Cancer Center

Outstanding recognition is given to each and everyone of these institutions and their RSA candidates, as we know that – the RSA funding aside – nothing would further our collective efforts without their independent and ongoing melanoma research programs. We applaud all and strongly encourage continued interest and participation in the Foundation's Research Scholar Award program in the future.

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation is a non-profit public charity founded in January, 2004 to foster education, advocacy and research. In just six-years, the Foundation has grown dramatically to become an influential voice in the melanoma community and is now established as a national, and international, "voice for melanoma prevention, detection, care and cure." We look forward to working with and through all of our current and past Research Scholar Award winners, to collaboratively advance our efforts in finding cures and treatment for melanoma. Congratulations to our 2010 Research Scholar Award – yours is a notable life's achievement and we wish good fortune to all you participate in future years!

Very appreciably,

2010 JMNMF Board – RSA Committee Members

Sherine Centenari, Chair
Esther Hoffberg
Robert E. Nicolay
Denise L. Safko