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Melanoma Resource Newsletter

2010-Q4-1

2011 RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARD APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN 2010 Research Funding Expanded 25%; Graduate Candidate Pool up 40%

2011 applications are now available for the Foundation's signature "Research Scholar Award" (RSA) program that attracted 24 applications from graduate student melanoma researchers at 16 prominent academic/research centers in the U.S. in 2010. The purpose of the RSA program is to encourage the best and most promising graduate students to choose melanoma research as their professional career path and increases the potential for highly significant research outcomes to benefit the entire academic, scientific, clinical and patient communities. Further, the Foundation's grant program enables cancer programs and laboratories at hospitals, institutes and universities nationwide to augment their melanoma research funding requests from the National Cancer Institute (the federal government's principal agency for cancer research and training under the National Institutes of Health-NIH). Applications are being accepted for the 2011 JMNMF Research Scholar Award program through the December 31, 2010 submission deadline.

According to Robert Nicolay, JMNMF Chairman, "The 'Awards' are invaluable at the grassroots level, to grow interest in melanoma research, at qualified cancer centers across the country. If we can attract the brightest minds, considering or already within the nation's cancer research pipelines, to pursue a career in melanoma research – we're that much closer to identifying the means for effective prevention, treatments and, a cure for this deadly and prevalent disease."

The RSA program was initially piloted in 2006 with the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, in cooperation with Dr. Rhoda M. Alani. Following success at Johns Hopkins, the program was expanded nationally to solicit applications from National Cancer Institute "Designated & Comprehensive Cancer Centers" and research institutional members of the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI), that conduct melanoma research involving graduate students.

In 2010, the JMNMF was very pleased to award the following students and their institutions:

- Ethan Abel – Thomas Jefferson University, Kimmel Cancer Center
- William Damsky – Yale University School of Medicine, Yale Cancer Center
- Erick Scott – University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Hillman Cancer Center
- Gai Yan – Johns Hopkins University, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
- Maya Ziglar – University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Research summaries for each RSA recipient are available by clicking [Here](#).



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Maya Zigler (right, pictured with program director Menashe Bar-Eli, Ph.D.) emphasized her post-doctoral melanoma-research interest, commenting “Since metastatic melanoma is associated with high rates of patient mortality and represents a challenge for current cancer therapies, I would like to continue studying novel cellular signaling pathways involved in melanoma progression that have the potential to become novel therapeutic targets.”

The Foundation continues to experience tremendous growth in this valuable program in both depth and breadth of funding, and in the diversity of candidates and institutions participating. The following academic/melanoma research centers participated in the 2010 Award application:

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

Outstanding recognition is deserved by each of these institutions and all of 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 2011 and the future.

The complete 2011 RSA Application is available on the Foundation’s [website](http://www.melanomaresource.org) or by contacting JMNMF directly at contact@melanomaresource.org. The deadline for submission is December 31, 2010.