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\$10,000 Melanoma Research Grant Awarded to Eleanor Clancy-Thompson, Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth Graduate Student and Research Assistant

Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation Announces National Research Scholar Awards

LEBANON, NH -- The [Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation](#) (JMNMF) has presented Eleanor Clancy-Thompson, a PhD candidate at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, with one of nine nationally competitive Research Scholar Awards (RSA) that support exceptional graduate students and provide recognition to their lab directors/PIs, schools and cancer research institutions. The \$10,000 melanoma research scholarships significantly enhance the potential for advancements in the melanoma cancer field to benefit the broad academic, scientific, clinical, and patient communities.

“I would like to thank the Joanna M. Nicolay Foundation for their generous support of my research,” said Eleanor. “I’m honored that my application was selected for funding, which will enhance and accelerate my research efforts to enhance immune therapy for metastatic melanoma.

My research may improve the targeting of immune cells to tumors, which may have a positive impact on patient outcomes, and I’m honored that the Nicolay Foundation is supporting these important and exciting studies.”

“Eleanor is an incredibly talented student who is making important contributions to the field of melanoma immunotherapy,” added David W. Mullins, PhD, Clancy-Thompson’s mentor. “With the support of the Joanna M. Nicolay Foundation, Eleanor’s work will be accelerated and enhanced. Moreover, the Award provides external validation of Eleanor’s skills and talents, which will increase the likelihood that Eleanor will pursue an independent career in melanoma research. Eleanor is a deserving student, and we are grateful for the Foundation’s support.”



Eleanor Clancy-Thompson receives her Research Scholar Award from Mark Israel, MD, Director of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. With Eleanor is her thesis mentor, David W. Mullins, PhD.

According to Robert E. Nicolay, JMNMF chairman, “Our Foundation’s Research Scholar Awards are invaluable at the grassroots level to specifically grow interest in melanoma research at qualified cancer centers across the country. If we can attract the brightest minds that are considering a career in melanoma research, we’re that much closer to better understanding the disease, identifying the means for effective treatments, and, most importantly, finding a cure for this deadly and very prevalent disease.”

The 2012 RSA applicant pool and cancer research centers represented grew to include 42 of the country’s most promising young melanoma researchers and 28 prominent National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Centers or members of the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI). Now celebrating the program’s sixth anniversary, the Foundation’s awards were initially piloted with the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center in 2006, and expanded nationally to encourage larger numbers of students to choose melanoma research as their professional career path.

In 2012, the JMNMF is very pleased to award the following students and their institutions:

- Eleanor Clancy-Thompson – Dartmouth College, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Norris Cotton Cancer Center
- Kevin Basile – Thomas Jefferson University, Kimmel Cancer Center
- Chin-Ying “Keen” Chung – Penn State University College of Medicine, Hershey Cancer Institute
- Maryann Mikucki – University of Buffalo, Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- Judith Murphy – Weill Cornell Grad. Sch. of Medical Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- Kim H.T. Paraiso – University of South Florida, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center
- Khvaramze Shaverdashvili – Case Western Reserve Univ., Case Comprehensive Cancer Ctr.
- Nicholas Theodosakis – Yale Univ. School of Medicine, Yale Comprehensive Cancer Ctr.
- Chentian Zhang – Boston University School of Medicine, Boston Medical Center

About the Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation

The [Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation](#) is a non-profit public charity founded in January, 2004 to foster melanoma education, advocacy and research. In just over seven 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.”

About Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

[Norris Cotton Cancer Center](#) combines advanced cancer research at Dartmouth College and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth with patient-centered cancer care provided at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock regional locations in Manchester, Nashua, and Keene, NH, and St. Johnsbury, VT, and at 12 partner hospitals throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. It is recognized and designated by the National Cancer Institute for its breadth and depth as one of just 40 Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the U.S. Learn more about Norris Cotton Cancer Center research, programs, and clinical trials online at cancer.dartmouth.edu.