



Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation
255 Clifton Blvd., Ste. 217
Westminster, Maryland 21157
(410) 857-4890
www.melanomaresource.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2009

JMNMF SCHOLAR AWARDS INCREASED 300% **Melanoma Foundation Funds Four Melanoma Research Scholar Awards**

Westminster, MD – The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation announces the presentation of four Joanna M. Nicolay Research Scholar Awards totaling \$40,000. This four-fold increase over last year's award levels seeks to grow interest in melanoma research at a grass roots level at cancer institutes across the country. The awards acknowledge the remarkable graduate students working to advance melanoma research. The four recipients of the 2008 awards are:

The University of California, Irvine, Hsiang Ho

A PhD student in Biological Chemistry, Hsiang Ho is using state of the art functional genomics technology to identify the key regulators of melanoma chemo-resistance and melanin production in human cells. The goal is to lead to novel drug targets for melanoma treatment and prevention.

Johns Hopkins University – Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Whei F. Moriarity
Whei, a PhD student in cellular and molecular medicine is researching the definition of the molecular pathways that lead to melanoma development and progression. The expectation is that by defining these pathways, novel diagnostic and/or therapeutic approaches to melanoma will be developed.

H. Lee Moffett Cancer Center at the University of South Florida, Janet Barry
Janet is pursuing a PhD in Medical Science. She is researching the design and optimization of therapeutic vaccines for melanoma.

The Wistar Institute at the University of Pennsylvania - Gao Zhang
Gao is pursuing a PhD in Bioengineering. This research covers early tumor development, stem cells and therapy. The goal is to discover the pathways in melanocytes and melanoma cells that need to be activated to lead to new therapy strategies.

This year the Foundation sought out Research Scholar requests from the National Cancer Institute's Comprehensive Cancer Centers across the country. The difficult decision of making the final selection was supported by the Foundation's Advisory Board, with the Board of Directors Research Sub-Committee.

Robert E. Nicolay, chairman of The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation stated, "The Foundation is extremely pleased to expand our support for the research efforts of these fine institutions. Funding melanoma research is an integral component of the Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation's mission, and the synergy created through our partnerships across the country will contribute to our goal of finding a cure for this deadly disease."

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation will begin accepting requests for 2010 awards in October of this year

JMNMF Scholar Award

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation

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



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The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation was formed in 2004 as a public 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. The mission of the Foundation is to support medical research that will ultimately lead to a cure for melanoma, seek opportunities to educate the general public on prevention and the severity of melanoma, and to be a resource for patients and the entire melanoma community.

GOT SKIN? LEARN THESE FACTS!!!

- Melanoma is the most serious and lethal form of skin cancer.
- One person dies every hour in the U.S. from melanoma.
- The lifetime risk of developing melanoma is **1 in 39**.
- Melanoma is the only cancer for which **incidence and mortality are rising unabated**, yet **only receives 2.5% of the funding** provided by the National Cancer Institute.
- Over one million new cases of skin cancer occur in the U.S.– **more than all other cancers combined**.
- Melanoma is the **most common cancer among young adults ages 20-30**; and, is
The **primary cause of cancer death for women ages 25-30**; and,
Second most common cause of cancer death for women ages 30-35.

Those interested in learning more about melanoma or the Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation or donating their time or funds can visit the Foundation's website at: www.melanomaresource.org or email jnmmf@carr.org.

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