

2017 Medical & Scientific Committee:

Critical to DF's Record of Success

The Foundation's Medical & Scientific Committee is the key group of volunteer experts charged with maintaining the outstanding record of supporting research by new investigators who become the driving force behind advances in patient care. This year the Committee and its Panel will evaluate applications in a broad offering of 12 award categories.

Committee members are carefully chosen for their valuable research acumen and ability to identify applicants who hold the strongest potential to advance the future of the specialty. Collectively their expertise and experience reflect the breadth of medical and surgical dermatology. The highly defined evaluation process is based on the NIH grant review procedure and ensures the thorough, equitable, and science-based assessment of all applications.

This process has been refined over the DF's many years of experience to assess both scientific merit and the applicant's potential, ensuring the wise selection of individuals who have the potential to make major contributions to the specialty. A survey of past Career Development Award recipients confirms that most of them (80%) remain in academics.

The DF proudly presents the 2017 Medical & Scientific Committee, and extends deep appreciation to each member for the substantial time, effort, and expertise they are devoting to this year's Research Awards program.

2017 Medical & Scientific Committee

Committee Chair

Johann E. Gudjonsson, MD, PhD
University of Michigan

Committee Members

Robert P. Dellavalle, MD, PhD, MSPH
University of Colorado, Denver

John E. Harris, MD, PhD
University of Massachusetts

Valerie Horsley, PhD
Yale University

Lu Q. Le, MD, PhD

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Delphine J. Lee, MD, PhD
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Lloyd S. Miller, MD, PhD
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

Abrar A. Qureshi, MD, MPH
Brown University

Michael D. Rosenblum, MD, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Clinical/Medical/Surgical/ Dermatopathology Panel

Panel Chair

Désirée Ratner, MD
Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai

Panel Members

Jeremy S. Bordeaux, MD, MPH
Case Western Reserve University

Jerry D. Brewer, MD
Mayo Clinic

Anna L. Bruckner, MD
University of Colorado, Denver

Pedram Gerami, MD
Northwestern University

Robert S. Kirsner, MD, PhD
University of Miami

Misha A. Rosenbach, MD
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Julie V. Schaffer, MD
Hackensack University Medical Center

Janis Marie Taube, MD, MSc
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traffic-produced particles for women who lived within 100 meters from a busy road, each interquartile increase in absorbance produced allied increases in lentiginos of 35% on the forehead and 15% on the cheeks.

Because lentiginos had always been considered exclusive to chronic UV radiation exposure, Krutmann was highly intrigued that they showed the strongest association with air pollution's skin-aging impact, and the strongest of all when only soot was involved. He gathered together other observations indicating that lentiginos can occur in the absence of UV radiation. "They are the leading

extrinsic skin aging symptom in Asians who, in contrast to Caucasians, avoid sun exposure and thus should have fewer rather than more lentiginos," he pointed out at the time. And "of particular interest," Krutmann says, "we had recently shown that AHR ligands, such as dioxin and PAHs, could induce melanocyte proliferation, and thereby skin tanning, in mice." PAHs constitute a group of more than 100 different organic compounds released from burning organic matter, including fuels, tobacco, trash, wood, and meat. They frequently bind to the surface of these combustion-derived nanoparticles,

with soot carrying an especially high PAH concentration. "And the strongest effect among these women was seen for soot," Krutmann underlines.

Extending the Outdoor Evidence

When Krutmann and his colleagues decided to expand their focus and see if chronic exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)—a gaseous component of traffic-related air pollution—induces skin aging, it was the first time that its effects on human skin had been investigated. Krutmann's research at the IUF had strongly suggested that "environmentally induced lung