



AFMR News

Newsletter of the American Federation for Medical Research

Spring 2004

From the President.....



Dear Colleagues,

This has been an exciting year as President of AFMR. We continue to be a vigorous group that many look to for action on issues concerning medical research. To start, I would like to thank Aurelie Alger, our Executive Director, for her efforts and leadership over the year. I welcome Mark Burge, M.D. into the Presidency and look forward to AFMR having a great year under his direction.

Our Western and Southern sections had strong meetings this year with an increase in abstract submissions and attendance. The meetings continued to feature trainees which is most important as they are the future of medical research, academic medicine and AFMR. Like many of us, this future generation of medical researchers will have fond memories of their first presentation, and, hopefully, will remain AFMR members. The sections were boosted by the growth of our Scholars Programs. These programs support the attendance of researchers with interest in a similar area. Jane Reusch, MD, AFMR Past President, has been instrumental in the growth of these programs, and, for that, we are sincerely grateful. I personally thank Jane for all of her efforts on behalf of AFMR and, while rest is deserved, we hate to see her rotate off the council.

We have had an exciting year on our public policy agenda. We were involved in the discussions around changes in the VA research program that concerned many members over this past year. We have continued our efforts to invigorate clinical research by supporting the expansion and

Errol D. Crook, M.D.

We have continued our efforts to invigorate clinical research by supporting the expansion and full implementation of loan repayment for developing clinical investigators, participating in advisory panels called by the Clinical Research Roundtable, and fully supporting Clinical Research 2004.

(continued on back page)

Washington Update



NIH FUNDING EFFORTS

In early February, the President requested a total NIH budget of \$28.8 billion, a \$764 million (2.7%) increase. While hardly a bonanza, the NIH budget received a *RELATIVELY* good increase in the Administration's proposal compared to a number of other domestic discretionary programs (including some within HHS) that would be eliminated or receive significant cuts.

Budget documents emphasize that the NIH funding priority will be research project grants, which occupy 54% of the budget. A total of just under 40,000 grants will be supported including 10,393 new/competing grants, an increase of 258 over last year.

Considerable dollars are being set aside for a near doubling of funding for NIH roadmap activities (from \$128 to \$209 million). Of the total, \$60 million is concentrated in the Office of the Director and \$177 million is spread across the Institute budgets.

AFMR will be urging Congress to add significant dollars above the President's request,

specifically a 10% increase to \$30.6 billion. Unfortunately, in the current political and budget and climate, it will be difficult to secure this *entire* amount. However, our Washington Office will be working to achieve the maximum increase possible above the President's request. In addition, we will focus special attention on programs of particular interest to physician scientists including the loan repayment program for clinical investigators and funding for clinical research training initiatives.

Grassroots involvement will be critically important. AFMR members will be called upon at critical times in the appropriations process for letter writing and phone calls to Members of Congress. ***Your active participation will be essential. Please respond to email alerts as you receive them.***

If you have questions about the budget, please contact Lynn Morrison or Courtney Gray Haupt at 202-543-7460 or healthadvocate04@att.net.

VA Inspector General's Office Criticizes Re-Review of Grants

Last year, the AFMR wrote to then-VA Chief Research and Development Officer Nelda Wray to express concern about an unprecedented internal re-evaluation of grants. In response to AFMR concerns, Members of Congress made inquiries about this as well. Since that time, the Office of the VA Inspector General has conducted an investigation regarding a number of actions taken by Dr. Wray. Among other things, the Inspector General's report found as follows:

(continued on page 3)

EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2004: AFMR Symposia

WASHINGTON, DC / April 17–21, 2004

SYMPOSIUM I

Sunday, April 18, 2004

STRATEGIES FOR THE PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL-MEDIATED TISSUE INJURY

C. Michael Hart, MD, Chair
David M. Guidot, MD, Co-Chair
Panel: Ali Banan, MD
Lou Ann Brown, PhD
Joseph H. Sisson, MD

SYMPOSIUM II

Sunday, April 18, 2004

MECHANISMS OF HYPERGLYCEMIA IN TYPE 2 DIABETES

Jerry M. Radziuk, MD, Chair
Robert Rizza, MD, Co-Chair
Panel: Guenther Boden, MD
Joseph Proietto, MD, PhD

SYMPOSIUM III

Monday, April 19, 2004

NUTRIENT SENSING AND THE METABOLIC SYNDROME OF AGING

Nir Barzilai, MD, Chair
Panel: Luciano Rossetti, MD
Michael Brownlee, MD
Meredith Hawkins, MD

SYMPOSIUM IV

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

THE STATE OF THE PROGENITOR: A COMPREHENSIVE STEM CELL RESEARCH UPDATE

Meredith Hawkins, MD, Chair
Errol D. Crook, MD, Co-Chair
Panel: Richard Burt, MD
Sanjeev Gupta, MD
David A. Prentice, PhD
Nigel M. de S. Cameron, PhD

SYMPOSIUM V

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

COLD ISCHEMIC INJURY OF ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANTATION: DEVASTATION, MECHANISMS, AND PREVENTION

Abdulla K. Salahudeen, MD, Chair
Panel: Hamid Rabb, MD
Ursula Rauen, PhD
Kenneth B. Storey, PhD, FRSC

AWARD WINNERS

2004 HENRY CHRISTIAN AWARDS

- Swapna Dharashivkar** *The Jewish Hospital
Cincinnati, Ohio*
- Robert J. Freishtat** *Children's National Medical Center
Washington, DC*
- Naila Goldenberg** *Cholesterol Center
Cincinnati, Ohio*
- Marlene Grenon** *Brigham & Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts*
- Olga Gumieniak** *Brigham & Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts*
- Leigh Perrault** *University of Colorado Health Sciences
Denver, Colorado*
- Kitt Mia Falk Petersen** *Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, Connecticut*
- Ariel P. Santos** *University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky*
- Beth A. Staffileno** *Rush University Medical Center
Glenview, Illinois*
- Daesman Suri** *University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois*
- Julia Tonelli** *Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, New York*

2004 OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD

James K. Liao, M.D. *Boston, Massachusetts*

2004 JUNIOR PHYSICIAN- INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

Tracey L. McLaughlin, M.D. *Stanford, California*

Nalini M. Rajamannan, M.D. *Chicago, Illinois*

NEW AFMR MEMBERS

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Devaprabu Abraham, M.D. | Virginia H. Donaldson, M.D. | Hao S. Lo, M.D. | Adam Sabbath, M.D. |
| Mohammed M. Ahmed, M.D. | Charles Edelstein, M.D. | D. Lynn Loriaux, M.D. | James K. Saffier, M.D. |
| Raju G. Ailiani, M.D. | Pirooz Eghtesady, M.D. | Yan H. Lue, M.D. | Graham C. Scanlon, |
| Werner C. Albrich, M.D. | Marshall B. Elam, M.D. | Mohsen I. Mabudian, M.D. | Darren Schmidt, M.D. |
| Frank A. Anania, M.D. | Suzanne Enloe, D.O. | Aristides Maniatis, M.D. | Rajiv D. Shah, B.S.E. |
| Laura Andrews, M.D. | Maryam Farazmand, M.D. | Javier Marquez, M.D. | Christopher Shepela, M.D. |
| Scott D. Appleton, Ph.D. | Karen Foster-Schubert, M.D. | Bruce McCollister, M.D. | Furqan H. Siddiqui, M.D. |
| Vanita R. Aroda, M.D. | Robert J. Freishtat, M.D. | Sean McGhee, M.D. | Robert L. Silge, B.S. |
| Jorge Artaza, M.D. | Alina N. Gavrilu, M.D. | Vishal C. Mehra, M.D. | Atam Bir Singh, M.D. |
| Sridhar Banuru, M.D. | Mark W. Geraci, M.D. | Christian Meyer, M.D. | Anita L. Sloan, M.D. |
| Jehad Barakat, M.D. | Craig Gerard, M.D. | John M. Miles, M.D. | Beth A. Staffileno, D.NSc. |
| R. Daniel Beauchamp, M.D. | Najeeb Ghaussy, M.D. | Andrew P. Miller, M.D. | Yuji Tada, M.D. |
| Darin M. Bell, B.S. | Steven K. Grinspoon, M.D. | M. Darren Mitchell, M.D. | Hiroki Takahashi, M.D. |
| Peyton Berookim, M.D. | Izabella Gurau, M.D. | Ferid Murad, M.D. | Sasha Taleban, M.D. |
| Sanjay Bindra, M.D. | Bobby K. Han, M.D. | Cherie-Ann O. Nathan, M.D. | Lisa Tannock, M.D. |
| Jay C. Bradley, M.D. | Andrew J. Head, M.D. | Kalpna Natrajan, M.D. | Mihaela Taylor, M.D. |
| Laura N. Broyles, M.D. | Anthony P. Heaney, M.D. | Maria I. New, M.D. | Svetlana Tchepeleva, M.D. |
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| C. Christensen, M.D. | Elizabeth Juneman, M.D. | Umang M. Patel, M.D. | Claudia van Dijk, M.D. |
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| Terry C. Davis, Ph.D. | Bethany Klopfenstein, M.D. | Venkat Rangaraj, M.D. | Kenneth E. Youens, B.S. |
| Wilfredo E. De Jesus-Monge, M.D. | Morris Kokhab, M.D. | Madhu Rao, M.D. | George Zahariadis, M.D. |
| Kevin Deane, M.D. | Sanjay Krishnan, M.D. | Suman W. Rathbun, M.D. | |
| Swapna A. Dharashivkar, M.D. | Clark C. Kulig, M.D. | Herbert Y. Reynolds, M.D. | |
| Bao Do, M.D. | Timothy LaPine, M.D. | Eric S. Rosenberg, M.D. | |
| Jennifer L. Dodson, M.D. | Judith E.C. Lieu, M.D. | Sheldon P. Rothenberg, M.D. | |

PASS ALONG THE AFMR MEMBER ADVANTAGE



Washington Update

(continued from page one)

Dr. Wray did not act reasonably when she re-evaluated and re-scored 130 research proposals that had previously earned fundable scores less than a month before their effective funding date, and disapproved 15 of them. While VHA policy provides that an investigator's proposal will be evaluated based on his or her productivity, specific measures of productivity were not previously used. The proposals had completed the merit review process and investigators had been notified of the results before Dr. Wray assumed her position as Chief of Research and Development Officer. They were expecting their projects to be funded based on the priority scores they received, in accordance with applicable policy. Dr. Wray's decision to not fund the projects was contrary to VA policy and to good management practice.

The Inspector General did not make any specific recommendation for action on this finding, but the AFMR believes this conclusion will be critically important in dissuading any future chief of research from engaging in any retroactive, internal re-evaluation of grants.

The Carmel Meetings are Alive and Flourishing!

The mission statement of the AFMR is to sponsor career development of physician-scientists and support medical research. This year, AFMR and the Western regional affiliates of the other societies dedicated to medical research (The Western Society for Clinical Investigation, The Western Association of Physicians, and the Western Society for Pediatric Research) put this mission into action in Carmel, California from January 28-31. Hundreds of students, fellows and junior faculty presented their research findings, networked with their peers, interacted with senior investigators in their field, and listened to state-of-the-art speakers. This is one of the few remaining general medical meetings that include pediatric, internal medicine and surgery investigators from all the sub-specialties.

Instrumental in the success of this year's meeting were two new AFMR-initiated career development programs targeting junior faculty and research fellows. From the increase in attendance and positive feedback from the participants, these programs were tremendously successful and we hope to continue and expand them to bring more fellows and junior faculty to the meetings in 2005. These events were:

SECOND ANNUAL WESTERN REGIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This is an award program designed to recognize and encourage meritorious research by fellows and junior faculty members. This year we were able to honor meritorious abstracts in the areas of Metabolism, Endocrinology, Rheumatology, Cardiovascular/Renal and Infectious Diseases. Sixty-six Scholars and their mentors were invited to the second annual Scholars Event, held this year at the Sunset Center. This was an elegant evening of networking with each sub-specialty breaking-out for discussions on career development by leaders in the respective disciplines. The event was a great success and we hope to expand to GI, adolescent medicine and neonatology/developmental biology next year.

Scholars receive a travel award and a membership in the American Federation of Medical Research. This program has enriched fellow and junior faculty participation at the Carmel meetings. We encourage all mentors and program directors to send fellows and junior faculty to Carmel to present their work and learn more about career issues important for the physician scientist.

Sponsors of this Year's Event:

Metabolism – Aventis / Endocrinology – GlaxoSmithKline / Rheumatology and Immunology – Centocor / Cardiovascular/Renal – Novartis / Infectious Diseases – Ortho McNeil (*Additional support for Gastroenterology from GlaxoSmithKline*)

NEW INVESTIGATOR WORKSHOPS

A new offering at the meetings were two lunchtime seminars held on grant writing, which focused on budget and staff development. Ms. Janet Blank, a senior grants administrator and analyst at Oregon Health & Science University, conducted this year's forum. The first day, 35 fellows and junior faculty attended. The second day, over 45 attended. Considering both the popularity (this accounts for over half of the fellows and junior faculty registered for this year's meeting) and the positive feedback from surveys filled out during the sessions, it is our goal to continue to expand these offerings to include other high-interest areas to young investigators such as career advancement and job negotiation, balancing career and family, scientific writing, and navigating the NIH. Similar workshops could also be included in the other AFMR regional meetings. (This event was sponsored by Takeda).

Submit your Manuscript TODAY!

Journal of Investigative Medicine

The Journal of Investigative Medicine is the official publication of the American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR). The Journal publishes original articles and reviews of broad interest to academic physicians and scientists. Submitted manuscripts undergo initial review by the editors, and those articles consistent with the goals of the Journal are sent for peer review. Authors wishing to contribute reviews are encouraged to contact the Editor prior to submission.

Manuscripts containing new material are accepted for consideration for publication with the provision that they are submitted solely to the Journal of Investigative Medicine and that no part of the material has been submitted to any other publication.

For complete Author Information on Journal submission, please visit the AFMR website, www.afmr.org or visit the publisher's website at www.bcdecker.com

SUBMISSIONS

Address all submissions to Ms. Lori Ennis, Editorial Assistant, Journal of Investigative Medicine, MedPub, Inc., 45685 Harmony Lane, Belleville, MI 48111; e-mail admin@medpubinc.com; Tel: 734-699-1217, Fax: 734-699-1136.



Hyatt Regency Chicago on the Riverwalk
April 16-17, 2004

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|---|---|
| | FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2004 |
| 6:30 am – 4:00 pm | Registration and Hospitality Area Regency Main Desk in the West Tower on the Gold Level |
| 7:30 am – 9:00 am | Breakfast and Scientific Poster Session Crystal B and C |
| 9:00 am – 12:00 pm 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm | Plenary Session I and II and Oral Abstract Presentations Regency C and D |
| 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm | Trainee Luncheon Food for Thought Regency B |
| 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm | Trainee Plenary Session Regency Ballroom |
| 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Trainee Poster Session and President's Reception Crystal Ballroom and Foyer |
| 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm | AFMR Henry Christian Award Dinner Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum <i>Invitation only</i> |
| 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm | Trainee Dinner and Program Interest-Based Negotiation: Analysis, Preparation, and Practice Toronto Room |
| 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm | APOR Business Meeting TBD |
| 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm | APOR Board of Director's Meeting and Dinner Water Tower |
| | SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2004 |
| 6:30 am – 3:30 pm | Registration and Hospitality Area Regency Main Desk in the West Tower on the Gold Level |
| 8:00 am – 10:00 am | AAP/ASCI Plenary Session Fairmont Hotel |
| 10:30 am – 12:30 pm | Plenary Session III and Oral Abstract Presentations Crystal A |
| 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm | Lunch and Scientific Poster Session Crystal B and Foyer |
| 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Plenary Session IV and Award Presentations Regency C |
| 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm | CR2005 Planning Committee Meeting TBD |

Including AFMR Outstanding Investigator James Liao, M.D.

Clinical Research is a joint meeting co-sponsored by AFMR, Association for Patient-Oriented Research, General Clinical Research Center Program Directors' Association, and the Association for Clinical Research Training Program (K30) Directors.

Western Section Meeting Highlights

The Western Section of the AFMR held its annual meeting from January 28-31, 2004 in Carmel, California. The Scientific Program included invited guest lecturers, plenary sessions, concurrent programs, student scientific sessions, resident forums, state-of-the-art lectures, awards presentations, breakfast and luncheon programs. The WAFMR Outstanding Investigator Award was presented to Molly C. Carr from the University of Washington. In addition, AFMR presented the following awards:

2004 GlaxoSmithKline Endocrinology Scholar Awards

Jorge N. Artaza, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Harvey K. Chiu, MD

University of Washington

Hoon-Ji Helen Choi, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Andrea D. Coviello, MD

University of Washington

Karen E. Foster-Schubert, MD

University of Washington

Ravi Jasuja, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Yan-He Lue, MD

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Aristides K. Maniatis, MD

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Stephanie T. Page, MD

UWMC

Rajan Singh, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Yanira Vera, MD

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

2004 Ortho-McNeil Infectious Disease Scholar Awards

Ru-Chien Chi, MD

University of Washington

Loris Hwang, MD

University of California, San Francisco

Bruce D. McCollister, MD

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Kalpana Natrajan, MD

University of Arizona Health Sciences Center

Sugat K. Patel, MD

Naval Medical Center San Diego

Paul S. Pottinger, MD

University of Washington

Linda Woodhouse, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science

George Zahariadis, MD

University of Washington

2004 Aventis Metabolism Scholar Awards

Devaprabu Abraham, MD

University of Utah

Laura A. Andrews, MD

OHSU

Peyton Berookim, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Jose J. Canales, MD

UCLA

Aruna Chelliah, MD

University of New Mexico HSC

Karen L. Herbst, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Kristine M. Hope, MD

Pacific Northwest Research Institute

Viorica Ionut, MD

University of Southern California

Bethany J. Klopfenstein, MD

Oregon Health & Science University

Kristen J. Nadeau, MD

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Madhu N. Rao, MD

University of California, San Diego

AtamBir B. Singh, MD

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Anita Lee L. Sloan, MD

University of New Mexico

Hiroki Takahashi, MD

Pacific Northwest Research Institute

Sasha Taleban, MD

University of Washington

Lisa R. Tannock, MD

University of Washington

Jenny Tong, MD

University of Washington

Kristina M. Utzschneider, MD

University of Washington

2004 Centocor Immunology and Rheumatology Scholar Awards

Kevin Deane, MD

University of Colorado Health Science Center

Najeeb O. Ghaussy, MD

University of New Mexico

Morris Kokhab, MD

University of Southern California

Timothy R. La Pine, MD

University of Utah

Sean A. McGhee, MD

University of California, Los Angeles

Mihaela B. Taylor, MD

Loma Linda

Svetlana Tchepeleva, MD

University of Colorado Health Science Center

2004 Novartis Cardiovascular/ Renal Scholar Awards

Sanjay Bindra, MD

University of Southern California

Lisa Castellano, MD

University of Arizona

Bao Do, MD

University of Arizona

Izabella Gurau, MD

University of New Mexico

Elizabeth Juneman, MD

University of Arizona

Sherri Kappler, MD

University of California, Davis

Sanjay Krishnan, MD

University of New Mexico

M. Darreh Mitchell, MD

University of Colorado

David C. Pettigrew, MD

Stanford University

Adam Sabbath, MD

University of Arizona

Darren W. Schmidt, MD

Yuji Tada, MD

University of Colorado

Francesca Tentori, MD

University of New Mexico

Florian Toegel, MD

University of Utah

Claudia M. van Dijk, MD

UCHSC

Southern Section Meeting Highlights

The Southern Section of the AFMR (SAFMR), the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI), the Southern Society for Pediatric Research (SSPR), the Southern Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM), the Ambulatory Pediatric Association (APA), and the American Physiological Society (APS) met for their annual meeting February 12 -14, 2004 at the Hotel Inter-Continental in New Orleans. There was a significant increase in the number of meeting participants and in the number of abstract submissions in 2004.

Capitalizing on the success of last year's Amgen Nephrology Young Investigator Forum two additional programs, the Amgen Rheumatology Young Investigator Forum and the Aventis Endocrinology/Metabolism Scholar Program were incorporated into the 2004 meeting. These events and workshops on Manuscript Preparation, Design of Clinical Investigation, Transforming Teaching into Scholarship, and Introduction to Molecular Techniques: basics of gene regulation and expression analyses received extremely high marks from the Young Investigators. These programs allowed us to significantly increase the amount of our travel awards this year.

The Joint Plenary Session on Saturday February 14th was well-attended and highlighted by a keynote address by Dr. Thomas Ganz from the David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA. Dr. Ganz who has made a number of seminal discoveries pertaining to antimicrobial peptides discussed the biology of defensins, and introduced the audience to hepcidin. This peptide, a recent discovery by his laboratory, plays critical roles in iron metabolism, and in the pathogenesis of hemochromatosis.

During the Meeting, the membership elected Dr. Jim Oates, from the Medical University of South Carolina, as the Chairman-elect of the SAFMR and Dr. John Arthur, also from the Medical University of South Carolina, as the Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Shanthi Sitaraman, from Emory University School of Medicine, and Dr. Sharma Prabhakar, from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, were both elected by the membership to be Regional Councilors. At the end of the meeting, Dr. Seth Berney from Louisiana State University in Shreveport stepped up as Chairman and thanked Dr. James Fleckenstein for his service as Chairman over the past year.



AFMR National Council

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Errol D. Crook, M.D.
Detroit, Michigan

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Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Denver, Colorado

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James C. Oates, M.D.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

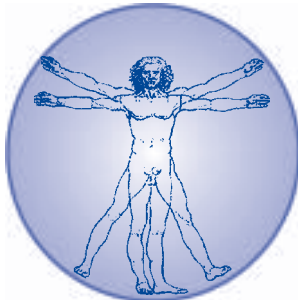
Abdulla K. Salahudeen, M.D.

From the President

(continued from page 1)

full implementation of loan repayment for developing clinical investigators, participating in advisory panels called by the Clinical Research Roundtable, and fully supporting Clinical Research 2004 (CR2004). Of interest, CR2004 is a reunion for AFMR, ASCI and AAP and serves as a venue for our Midwest Sectional meetings. We are exciting about this development and look forward to continuing these efforts.

I encourage all members to take advantage of the opportunities that AFMR provides. Please encourage colleagues to join us, attend our meetings, submit to our journal (*The Journal of Investigative Medicine*) and share their thoughts about the organization with us. We have had several great initiatives develop from ideas of the rank and file such as a new student membership and partnerships with other foundations that share our concerns for development of medical researchers. With your help AFMR will continue to address the challenges to medical research and provide outlets for creative expression and exchange of ideas.



AFMR News

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Beverly, MA 01915**

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First Class Mail
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