



SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION | UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CARY COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION, AND UT SOUTHWESTERN ANNOUNCE 2018 DOCSTAR GRANTS

Funds to support early-stage research of three young investigators at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – December 20, 2018 – [The Cary Council](#), a group of emerging young leaders who support the missions of Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern Medical Center, announced grant recipients of funds raised to support early stage research from their second annual “An Evening with DocStars” event, which was held October 25. The Cary Council raised more than \$220,000 thanks to sponsors and attendees of this signature event, enabling significant grants to each of the three chosen finalists, or “DocStars.”

This year’s finalists, Prasanna Alluri, M.D., Ph.D., David Greenberg, M.D., and Animesh (Aashoo) Tandon, M.D., M.S., were selected by The Cary Council’s Steering Committee from a group of young investigators nominated by David Russell, Ph.D., Vice Provost and Dean of Basic Research, and UT Southwestern leadership.

Dr. Alluri’s research is focused on building targeted therapies to overcome treatment-resistant breast cancer and has already identified a promising drug that inhibits growth of treatment-resistant cells. Dr. Greenberg is addressing the global antibiotic resistance health crisis and is developing a sophisticated computer algorithm to predict whether a strain of bacteria is resistant and discover new forms of resistance. Dr. Tandon is developing life-saving home monitoring techniques for babies with congenital heart disease, which will help to predict future events and prompt faster medical intervention.

“Support for research at its earliest and, by definition, riskiest stage is essential to ultimately finding the means to address the important medical challenges still in need of solutions. In

directing the funds it raises to the support of early career investigators willing to undertake this research, The Cary Council increases the promise for life-changing breakthroughs,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern Medical Center.

“The Cary Council is truly inspiring us in our journey toward greater and greater progress in medicine,” said Kathleen M. Gibson, President and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation. “Their enthusiasm and leadership talents, combined with their abilities to reach a broader audience, are already demonstrating tremendous and tangible results. We could not be more proud.”

More than 250 guests joined together at UT Southwestern’s new Simulation Center for “An Evening with DocStars.” Described as an event like no other in Dallas, the evening offered attendees the opportunity to mingle with UT Southwestern faculty, including the DocStars finalists. Guests enjoyed two floors of interactive experiences, including role-playing simulation activities like a “Stop the Bleed” challenge, and curiosity stations that showcased some of UT Southwestern’s current research.

By organizing this opportunity to interact with UT Southwestern faculty, students, and simulation technologies, The Cary Council sought to bring academic medicine to life in an engaging way, according to event co-chairs Lana Constantine and Amanda Eagle George.

“The event was interactive – there were activities for those in attendance,” Constantine said. “Not only was it a chance to give back, it was a chance to engage and educate the future leaders of North Texas about the lifesaving research that is going on at UT Southwestern Medical Center.”

George agreed. “The young medical investigators need support, and that means capital,” she said. “The DocStars event allows us to energize a new generation of donors to help fund a new generation of medical investigators. This was an amazing opportunity to honor the work of these medical investigators while raising money to further their research.”

The Cary Council is dedicated to advancing the importance of early stage research, in support of Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern. Through engaging programming, they are catalyzing a new generation of community leaders and building awareness of the missions of these two institutions. The [2017 DocStars grant recipients](#), Richard C. Wang, M.D., Ph.D., Jacques Lux, Ph.D., and Sara Piccirillo, Ph.D., are continuing work in their respective projects and have each earned and secured additional funding sources since receiving their awards last year.

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ABOUT THE CARY COUNCIL

The Cary Council is dedicated to carrying on Dr. Edward H. Cary's legacy to "inspire a great citizenship to greater deeds."

In September 2015, Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern launched The Cary Council, a group of emerging community leaders, whose mission is to support and strengthen the work of the Foundation and Medical Center. The Council was created to educate the next generation about the critical role medical research, education, and patient care plays in improving our health and making Dallas a world-class city.

Funds raised from "An Evening with DocStars" support young UT Southwestern investigators working on promising early stage research. Philanthropy is vital in advancing early-stage research, which may be too nascent to qualify for other funding sources. Finalists will be chosen by UT Southwestern faculty and the recipient(s) will be selected by The Cary Council. Funds raised from last year's inaugural event enabled The Cary Council to give three grants to outstanding young researchers to further their research.

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ABOUT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Southwestern Medical Foundation is a visionary institution that identifies opportunities and challenges to inspire and advance progress in medicine. The Foundation helps create needed resources to advance medicine primarily in the southwestern United States through the commitment of donors, helping to assure the highest quality of medicine through scientific discoveries, medical training, and patient care.

Since 1939, the Foundation has connected the vision of our donors with highly innovative programs, and served as a sustainable funding source for leading edge research, medical education and patient care, while stewarding the important assets and which donors have entrusted.

Southwestern Medical Foundation is guided by four core principles: Service to Community, Vision of Excellence, Mindful Stewardship, and Best Outcomes. Each principle is a promise to donors, beneficiaries, and generations to come that the Foundation is dedicated to bringing the gift of better health to our community and to the world beyond.

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ABOUT UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

UT Southwestern, one of the premier academic medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. The institution's faculty has received six Nobel Prizes, and includes 22 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 17 members of the National Academy of Medicine, and 15 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators. The faculty of more than 2,700 is responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and is committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide care in about 80 specialties to more than 105,000 hospitalized patients, nearly 370,000 emergency room cases, and oversee approximately 2.4 million outpatient visits a year.

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