

## **Actelion Awards Grants to 2016 ENTELLIGENCE™ Young Investigators for Research in Pulmonary Vascular Disease, San Francisco, CA – June 3, 2016:**

Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc. and the ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee recognized five young researchers and their mentors this year for their efforts in advancing research in pulmonary vascular pathobiology. Each researcher will receive a 12-month mentored grant of up to \$100,000 in support, funded through the Actelion-supported ENTELLIGENCE program. The announcement was made at a recent award luncheon held in San Francisco during the time of the American Thoracic Society's annual meeting. The recipients of the 2016 awards gave an overview of their proposed work during the luncheon.

"This is the 11th year of the ENTELLIGENCE Young Investigator Program. After 10 years of great success, this year was even better. We are fortunate that Actelion allowed us to award an extra grant this year - a welcome addition, given the ever-increasing caliber of proposals we have received," said Dr. Ronald J. Oudiz, ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee Chairman and Director of the Liu Center for Pulmonary Hypertension at the LA Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. At the annual ENTELLIGENCE luncheon at ATS, Actelion Pharmaceuticals' Chief Scientific Officer and Co-Founder, Dr. Martine Clozel, delivered an inspirational speech to kick off the award ceremony. Several past awardees in attendance, now seasoned investigators and mentors to new young investigators, were recognized. "The Steering Committee members are so proud of the impressive science that ENTELLIGENCE has produced over the years," said Dr. Oudiz. "For the past 11 award cycles, ENTELLIGENCE, with over \$4.5 million in funding, has supported innovative basic, translational, and clinical research that has fostered the development of 55 young investigators' careers in pulmonary vascular research. During this time, the awardees' research findings have been published in peer-reviewed journals, and they have obtained external funding to continue their research. We remain proud of the ENTELLIGENCE program and the important milestones achieved thus far, and we very much look forward to next year's program," Oudiz said.

In addition to Dr. Martine Clozel, attendees included Gary Palmer, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President, US Medical, Michael Zastrow, PhD, Associate Medical Director, and Lee Ann McDowell, PharmD, Senior Medical Science Liaison, of Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc., leaders and researchers in the field of pulmonary vascular disease, as well as Rino Aldrighetti, President of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association

### **The 2016 award winners, their mentors, and the supported projects are:**

#### **Olivier Boucherat, PhD**

Researcher  
Québec Heart and Lung Institute Research Centre  
Québec, QC, Canada

**Mentor:** Sébastien Bonnet, PhD

**Project Title:** *Impact of mitochondrial heat shock protein 90 inhibition in pulmonary arterial hypertension*

#### **Vitaly O. Kheifets, PhD**

Graduate Faculty  
University of Colorado Denver  
Denver, CO

**Co-investigator:** Shelley Miyamoto, MD

**Mentors:** Robin Shandas, PhD and Dunbar Ivy, MD

**Project Title:** *Inter-ventricular decoupling is an overlooked contributor to right ventricular myocardial stress and dysfunction in pediatric pulmonary hypertension*

#### **Todd M. Kolb, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD

**Co-investigator:** David Kass, MD

**Mentor:** Paul Hassoun, MD

**Project Title:** *PDE9A in right ventricular and pulmonary vascular remodeling*

**Jeffrey C. Robinson, MD**

Fellow in Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine  
University of Colorado  
Aurora, CO

**Mentor:** Rubin Tuder, MD

**Project Title:** *Iron deficiency and hypoxic signaling in pulmonary hypertension*

**Haiyang Tang, PhD**

Research Assistant Professor  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ

**Co-investigator and Mentor:** Jason Yuan, MD, PhD

**Project Title:** *Differential role of mTORC1 and mTORC2 in hypoxic vasoconstriction and the development of pulmonary hypertension*

**About ENTELLIGENCE**

The ENTELLIGENCE program was established by Actelion in 2005 to support basic science, translational, and clinical research related to pulmonary vascular disease. The program provides opportunities for individual young investigators to promote quality medical care and enhance patients' lives by supporting research in pulmonary hypertension (PH) related to expanding our knowledge of the pathways involved in pulmonary vascular pathobiology. ENTELLIGENCE is led by a Steering Committee comprised of leaders in the field of PH.

The next ENTELLIGENCE grant award cycle begins on September 15, 2016. For more information regarding the Young Investigator Program, please visit [www.ENTELLIGENCEMD.org](http://www.ENTELLIGENCEMD.org). For further information, please contact Medtelligence ([jfreeman@medtelligence.net](mailto:jfreeman@medtelligence.net)).



**2016 Award Winners.** From left: Jeffrey Robinson, MD, Todd Kolb, MD, PhD, Ronald Oudiz, MD [Program Chair], Vitaly Kheifets, PhD, and Haiyang Tang, PhD. *Not shown:* Olivier Boucherat, PhD.



**ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee.** From left: Jason Yuan, MD, PhD, Harold Palevsky, MD, Kurt Stenmark, MD, Harrison Farber, MD, Mardi Gomberg-Maitland, MD, MSc, Evangelos Michelakis, MD, and Ronald Oudiz, MD, Chair. *Not shown:* Maureen Mayes, MD, MPH, and Richard Silver, MD.