

Actelion Awards Grants to 2018 ENTELLIGENCE™ Young Investigators for Research in Pulmonary Vascular Disease, San Diego, CA – Update – July 20, 2018:

Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc. and the ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee recognized four young researchers and their mentors this year for their efforts in advancing research in pulmonary vascular disease. Each researcher will receive a 12-month mentored grant of up to \$100,000, funded through the Actelion-supported ENTELLIGENCE program. The announcement was made at a recent award luncheon held in San Diego, CA during the time of the American Thoracic Society's annual meeting. The recipients of the 2018 awards gave an overview of their proposed work during the luncheon.

"Now beginning our 14th year of the ENTELLIGENCE Young Investigator Program, we have been incredibly pleased with the exceptional quality of the research proposals submitted each year," 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, Janssen North America's Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Anastasia G. Daifotis, delivered an inspirational speech to kick off the award ceremony. Several past awardees and past mentors were in attendance and were proudly recognized. Many prior ENTELLIGENCE awardees have since become seasoned investigators, recognized as significant contributors to the field of pulmonary vascular disease. "The Steering Committee members are quite proud of the exciting and productive pulmonary vascular research that ENTELLIGENCE has produced over the years," said Dr. Oudiz. "For the past 13 award cycles, ENTELLIGENCE, with over \$5.4 million in funding, has supported innovative basic, translational, and clinical research that has now fostered the development of 63 young investigators' careers in pulmonary vascular disease. During this time, the awardees' research findings have been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, and with the momentum of their ENTELLIGENCE awards, many have obtained external funding to continue their research. We are excited to begin another ENTELLIGENCE funding cycle this year and look forward to reviewing more outstanding research proposals in the coming year," Oudiz said.

Attendees included Dr. Anastasia Daifotis, Chief Scientific Officer, Janssen North America, Gary Palmer, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President, US Medical, Marc Spangner, PharmD, Director US Medical Communications, Peter Agron, PhD, Associate Director, Medical Affairs, and Lee Ann McDowell, PharmD, Senior Medical Science Liaison, of Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc. Additional leaders and researchers in the field of pulmonary vascular disease included Brad Wong, President of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

The 2018 award winners, their mentors, and the supported projects are:

Catherine Avitabile, MD

Mentors: Stephen Paridon, MD; Babette Zemel, PhD

Institution: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Title: *The association between skeletal muscle deficits and exercise performance in pediatric pulmonary hypertension patients*

Meghan Bernier, MD

Co-Investigator: Larissa Shimoda, PhD

Mentor: Lewis Romer, MD

Institution: The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

Title: *Endothelial to mesenchymal transition in pulmonary hypertension: Formin a new identity*

Stephen J. Coleman, MS, PhD

Mentor: Milton Thomas, PhD

Institution: Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO

Title: *Investigation of calcium regulatory processes and their role in a natural large animal model of altitude-associated pulmonary hypertension sensitivity leading to heart failure*

Daniel Lachant, DO

Mentor: R. James White, MD

Institution: University of Rochester Medical Center

Rochester, NY

Title: *Extracellular vesicles as a marker of vascular disease activity in PAH***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 disease. ENTELLIGENCE is led by a Steering Committee comprised of leaders in the field of PH.

The 2019 ENTELLIGENCE grant award cycle is now open. For more information regarding the Young Investigator Program, please visit www.ENTELLIGENCEMD.org. For further information, please contact Medtelligence (info@medtelligence.net).



2018 Award Winners. From left: Meghan Bernier, MD, and Stephen Coleman, MS, PhD. *Not shown:* Catherine Avitabile, MD, and Daniel Lachant, DO.



Ronald Oudiz, MD, Chair, ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee.