

Actelion Awards Grants to 2020 ENTELLIGENCE™ Young Investigators for Research in Pulmonary Vascular Disease, Virtual Award Ceremony – May 18, 2020:

Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc., and the ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee recognized four young researchers and their mentors for their efforts in advancing research in pulmonary vascular disease this year. 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 today during a virtual ceremony. The recipients of the 2020 awards gave an overview of their proposed work during the luncheon.

“Entering our 16th year of the ENTELLIGENCE Young Investigator Program, the ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee members are proud to award four new innovative grants to promising young investigators in the field of pulmonary vascular disease. Each year, very high-quality research proposals come before us. And each year, owing to the high caliber of these proposals, the decisions for funding can be extremely challenging,” said Ronald J. Oudiz, MD, ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee Chairman and Director of the Liu Center for Pulmonary Hypertension at the LA Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

During the ceremony, Janssen Global Head for the Pulmonary Hypertension Therapeutic Area, Neil Davie, PhD, delivered an inspirational speech to kick off the award ceremony. “The four individuals awarded this year have made significant strides in pulmonary hypertension research and are at the forefront of advancing care for people with PAH. We congratulate the awardees and look forward to their continued contributions to the future of pulmonary hypertension research.”

As at past award ceremonies, many prior ENTELLIGENCE awardees and mentors were in attendance, and all were proudly recognized. Many of the prior ENTELLIGENCE awardees have gone on to publish their works in various journals and have become more senior investigators in the field of pulmonary vascular disease. “The ENTELLIGENCE Steering Committee is thrilled with the success of the program thus far. So much exciting research has come before us over the years, we couldn’t be more pleased,” said Dr. Oudiz. “For the past 15 award cycles, ENTELLIGENCE, with more than \$6 million in funding, has supported innovative basic, translational, and clinical research that has fostered the development of 71 young investigators’ careers in pulmonary vascular disease. During this time, the awardees’ research findings have been published in more than 74 peer-reviewed journals. With the momentum of their ENTELLIGENCE awards, many young investigators have obtained extramural funding to continue their research in pulmonary vascular disease,” Oudiz said.

2020 ENTELLIGENCE Winners

Arun Jose, MD

Mentors: Jean M. Elwing, MD, Francis X. McCormack, MD, and William C. Nichols, PhD
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH

Title: Biomarker Discovery in Portopulmonary Hypertension

Claudia Mickael, PhD

Mentor: Rubin M. Tuder, MD
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO

Title: The Role of Classical Dendritic Cells in Pulmonary Hypertension

Maryam Sharifi-Sanjani, PhD

Co-Investigator: Dennis Bruemmer, MD, PhD
Mentors: Imad Al Ghouleh, PhD, and Stephen Chan, MD, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

Title: Insight into Right Ventricular Defenses to Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Potential Role of TRF2, A Telomeric Protein

Kel Vin Woo, MD

Mentors: David Curiel, MD, PhD, and David Ornitz, MD, PhD

Washington University

St. Louis, MO

Title: Endothelial Drug Targets for Hypoxia-Induced Pulmonary Hypertension

**2020 Award Winners.**

From left: Arun Jose, MD; Claudia Mickael, PhD; Maryam Sharifi-Sanjani, PhD; and Kel Vin Woo, MD

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.

For more information regarding the Young Investigator Program and the upcoming grant cycle, please visit www.ENTELLIGENCEMD.org. Please contact the program administrators at Medtelligence (info@medtelligence.net) with any questions.