



2501 M Street, NW
Suite 550
Washington, DC 20037-1308
Telephone: (202) 861-6900
Fax: (202) 861-9731
Email: ASP@im.org
Website: www.im.org/asp

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Press Release

For more information: Erin A. Mudd
Telephone: (202) 861-6900
Email: emudd@im.org

ASP Announces 2003 T. Franklin Williams Scholars

The Association of Subspecialty Professors (ASP) is pleased to announce the second annual class of the T. Franklin Williams Scholars Program. These scholars are the recipients of career development awards cosponsored by ASP, with generous funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies, Inc., and eight medical subspecialty societies. The 10 junior investigators funded under this initiative will join the four current award recipients to continue the momentum needed to fully realize the programs goal of integrating geriatrics into the internal medicine subspecialties.

Recipients must meet several criteria to be eligible for the award, including completion of a subspecialty internal medicine fellowship and dedication of 75 percent of their time to biomedical research. As a main focus of the program, the recipients will pursue a research project and a career development plan focused on a geriatric aspect of their subspecialty. The program provides the recipients two-year awards of \$50,000-\$75,000 per year, to support the early stages of their academic careers.

“The program’s early success is an indicator of the strong need to provide support for entry-level faculty. This award allows protected time for junior faculty to develop a research and teaching base focusing on health care for older adults. Our initial awardees have set a high standard for those who will follow in their footsteps,” remarked Kevin P. High, MD, Chair of the ASP Geriatrics Committee and Co-Principal Investigator of the T. Franklin Williams Scholars Program. He added, “We expect to build on this solid foundation in the coming year to achieve the program goal of training the next generation of subspecialty faculty focused on the growing aging population.”

In July 2003, the second class of Williams Scholars was announced:

Recipient: Michele Basche, MD
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Project : “A Phase I/II Clinical Trial of Capecitabine with Oxaliplatin in Patients 70 years of Age or Older with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer”
Award: American Society for Clinical Oncology-ASP-Junior Development Award in Geriatric Oncology

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- Recipient:* Paula Busse, MD
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- Project:* “The Role of Chronic Allergen Exposure on the Expression of the Major Mucus Producing Gene in the Airways, MUC05AC, in Older Mice, and Development of a Murine Model of Elderly Onset Atopic Asthma”
- Award:* ASP-American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology-Geriatric Development Initiative (GDI) Junior Faculty Development Award
- Recipient:* Annette Chang, MD
University of Michigan Medical School
- Project:* “Effect of Age on Hepatic Glucose Production and Beta Cell Function”
- Award:* American Diabetes Association-ASP Young Investigator Innovation Award in Geriatric Endocrinology
- Recipient:* Brian K. Gehlbach, MD
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
- Project:* “Predicting Functional Decline and the Need for Long-term Care in Elderly Critically Ill Patients”
- Award:* ASP-CHEST Foundation of the American College of Chest Physicians Geriatric Development Research Award
- Recipient:* Karen Hansen, MD
University of Wisconsin Medical School
- Project:* “Hypovitaminosis D in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Prevalence and Benefits of Vitamin D₃ Therapy”
- Award:* American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation-ASP-Junior Career Development Award in Geriatric Medicine
- Recipient:* Anthony Reginato, PhD, MD
Harvard Medical School Massachusetts General Hospital
- Project:* “Low-density Lipoprotein Receptor-related Protein 5 (LRP5) Mutations in Patients with Low Bone Mass, a Risk Factor for Osteoporosis”
- Award:* American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation-ASP-Junior Career Development Award in Geriatric Medicine
- Recipient:* Jonathan Segal, MD
University of Michigan Medical School
- Project:* “Reducing the Vascular Access Morbidity for Elderly Patients on Hemodialysis”
- Award:* American Society of Nephrology-ASP Junior Development Award in Geriatric Nephrology
- Recipient:* Albert Shaw, MD, PhD
Yale University School of Medicine
- Project:* “Effects of Mutations in APP and Presenilin Associated with Alzheimer’s Disease on Lymphocyte Development and Function”
- Award:* ASP-Infectious Diseases Society of America-Young Investigator Award in Geriatrics
- Recipient:* Mark Unruh, MD
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- Project:* “Sleep and Function: Influences of Aging and Kidney Failure”
- Award:* American Society of Nephrology-ASP Junior Development Award in Geriatric Nephrology
- Recipient:* Susan Ziemann, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Project:* “The Effect of Vascular Stiffness on Endothelial Function”
- Award:* ASP-Society for Geriatric Cardiology-Junior Career Development Award in Geriatric Medicine

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About Atlantic Philanthropies

The Atlantic Philanthropies, Inc. work globally to identify and support leaders, institutions, and organizations dedicated to learning, knowledge-building and solving pressing social problems. They have a longstanding interest in aging.

About the Association of Subspecialty Professors

The Association of Subspecialty Professors (ASP) is the national organization of subspecialty internal medicine divisions at the US medical schools and several non-university teaching hospitals. ASP is the only organization that focuses specifically on providing training and educational opportunities for internal medicine division chiefs and fellowship training program directors. The T. Franklin Williams Scholars program is part of ASP's Geriatrics Development Initiative.

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