Transplant Endowment Fund Grants

In 2016, the Northwestern Medicine Transplant Advisory Council (NMTAC), an inspired group of organ recipients, donors and their families that are united in a mission to support the future of organ transplantation. Northwestern Memorial Foundation (NMF) and the Comprehensive Transplant Center (CTC) embarked on a journey to build a $10M endowment fund to support ongoing CTC research efforts.

The endowment funds are used to support ambitious, audacious and innovative research that is not typically funded by federal agencies and industry partners but will allow the CTC scientists to explore the next generation of aspirational projects to ensure a sustainable legacy of the relentless pursuit of collaborative and innovative research that has become the hallmark of the CTC.

FY 2019 Awardees:
- Andre Iovane, PhD: $8,225 for his project "Development of a new CRISPR-based ultra-sensitive method for CMV nucleic acids detection and quantitation"
- Catherine Chapin, MD, MS: $10,000 for her project "Transcriptome analysis to identify key mediators of immune dysregulation in indeterminate pediatric acute liver failure"
- Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH: $15,000 for her project "PIPELine (Personality Informed Prehabilitation in End-stage Liver Disease)"
- Robert Gerbasi, PhD: $17,000 for his project "A pilot study to delineate the proteoforms underpinning FSGS recurrence in patients after kidney allograft transplantation using next-generation precision proteomics"
- Mahzad Akbarpour, DVM, PhD: $17,775 for the project "Inflammasome-dependent IL-1B production by donor NCM lead to the development of PGD following lung transplantation"
- Michael Divito, PhD: $20,000 for his project "Optimization of Acellular Liver Scaffold System for iPSC Lipotoxicity Model"

FY 2018 Awardees:
- Mary Rinella, MD: $10,000 for her project "Noninvasive Diagnosis of Disease Recurrence in Patients Transplanted for NASH Cirrhosis"
- Katherine Hekman, MD, PhD: $9,950 for her project "Metabolic Reprogramming in Nephron Progenitor Cell Directed Differentiation"
- Sarah Taylor, MD: $10,000 for her project "The Mechanistic Implications of a Limited Immunoglobulin Repertoire in Biliary Atresia"
- Lisa Van Wagner, MD: $10,000 for her project "Change in Body Composition in Liver Transplant Recipients Over Time and Impact on Clinical Outcomes"

FY 2017 Pilot Awardees:
- Javeed Ansari, MD: $10,000 for his project "Identification and Characterization of HLA-Specific B Cells in Transplant Recipients"
- Eleonora Forte, PhD: $4,000 for her project "Identification of host genes essential for Human Cytomegalovirus latency and reactivation by CRISPR-Cas9 Knockout Screening"
- John Friedewald, MD: $1,000 for his project "Clinical and Genomic Predictors of Outcomes in Kidney Transplantation"
- Silvia Minardi, PhD: $10,000 for her project "Synthosomes: Biomimetic Exosome-like Proteolipid Nanovesicles for Tolerance Delivery in an Islet Transplant Model"

Annually requests for proposals will be issued in the spring with applications due May 15 and an anticipated project/funding start date of September 1. For more information, please contact Hayden Polancich (Hayden.Polancich@nm.org).