

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BWF Awards \$3 Million to Infectious Disease Investigators

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C.—The Burroughs Wellcome Fund has announced the recipients of the 2009 Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease award.

The Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease award provides \$500,000 during a five-year period to encourage multidisciplinary approaches to investigating pathogenesis. BWF launched the program in 2002 and has made 78 awards for an investment of more than \$33 million in the careers of assistant professor-level researchers who are working on understanding the interactions between the human host and the infectious agent—bacterial, viral, fungal, or parasitic.

All awardees hold tenure-track faculty positions and must be nominated by degree-granting institutions in the United States or Canada.

"Infectious diseases remain a concern to global health," BWF President Dr. John Burris said. "We are proud to support the work of creative investigators who study the crucial interaction between the host and the microbe."

Following are the 2009 award recipients, along with their institutions and research projects:

Jen-Tsan Ashley Chi, M.D., Ph.D.

Duke University Medical Center

Sequence determinant of the *Plasmodium falciparum* gene regulation by human microRNAs

K. Heran Darwin, Ph.D.

New York University School of Medicine

Ubiquitin-like proteins in bacterial pathogens

Denise Monack, Ph.D.

Stanford University

Host-pathogen interactions during persistent *Salmonella* infection

Maya Saleh, Ph.D.

McGill University

Regulation and molecular mechanisms of NLR-mediated innate immunity

Erica O. Saphire, Ph.D.

Scripps Research Institute

Arenavirus GP: architecture, receptor binding sites, and immune recognition

Russell Vance, Ph.D.

University of California-Berkeley

Innate immune cytosolic immunosurveillance pathways for sensing bacterial pathogens

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ABOUT BWF

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is an independent, private foundation dedicated to advancing the medical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities. A majority of its grantmaking is made through competitive programs designed to support the career development of young scientists and to build capacity in undervalued research areas. For more information about the Fund, contact Russ Campbell, Communications Officer, at 919/991-5119 or visit our web site at <http://www.bwfund.org>.