NASS Announces $136,000 in Research Grants and Traveling Fellowships

BOSTON—The North American Spine Society (NASS) announced the winners of its 2016 Research and Clinical Traveling Fellowships and Research Grant Awards at its 31st Annual Meeting.

Research grants provide funding for promising projects by qualified investigators in the spine care field. Since 1989, NASS has funded more than $3.7 million in grants for spine-related research.

NASS Research Traveling Fellowships span at least five months at one medical center other than the facility at which the applicant currently practices. Clinical Traveling Fellowships span at least one month to be spent in three to five different medical centers studying spine techniques.

A total of $136,479 was awarded to this year’s recipients based on scientific merit, significance of the project, approach and feasibility. Winners were selected by the NASS Research Project Management Committee and Research Council, and approved by the Executive Committee.

The 2016 Clinical Traveling Fellowship winner is Pallav Bhatia, MBBS, MS, Mount Sinai Medical Center; Rush University; NY Presbyterian Hospital ($5,800)

The 2016 Research Traveling Fellowship winner is Nicholas Van Halm Lutterodt, MD, Keck Medical Center of USC, California ($5,000)

The 2016 Research Grant award winners are:

- Clinical Grant: “Comparative Effectiveness of Multi-Modal Pain Management versus Standard Postoperative Analgesia: Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial to Reduce Postoperative Pain and Opioid Use Among Patients Undergoing Lumbar Spine Surgery.” Primary Investigator: Richard Skolasky, ScD ($47,748)
- Clinical Grant: “The Severity of Preoperative A1c and Predicting Postoperative Complications in Spine Surgery.” Primary Investigator: Tomoko Tanaka, MD ($25,000 partial funding)
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- **Young Investigator—Basic Grant:** “Does Cartilage Endplate Permeability Impact Nucleus Pulposus Cell Function?” Primary Investigator: Aaron J. Fields, PhD ($25,000 partial funding for year one of a two-year project)
- **Young Investigator—Clinical:** “Effects of Telemedicine Triage on Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness in Spinal Care.” Primary Investigator: Shari Cui, MD ($27,931)

More than 3,500 spine professionals will meet at the NASS 31st Annual Meeting in Boston, October 26-29, 2016 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The scientific program will offer more than 800 presentations, including symposia, paper sessions, ePosters, instructional courses and hands-on courses. More than 1,050 scientific abstracts and session proposals were submitted this year. More than 330 exhibitors will offer up the latest spine technologies in the Technical Exhibition area, in more than 81,050 square feet.

The North American Spine Society is a multidisciplinary medical organization dedicated to fostering the highest quality, evidenced-based and ethical spine care by promoting education, research and advocacy. NASS is comprised of more than 8,000 members from several disciplines, including orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, physiatry, neurology, radiology, anesthesiology, research and physical therapy. For more information, visit [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org) and find NASS on: [NASS Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NASSSpine) and [NASS Twitter](https://twitter.com/NASSSpine).

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