NASS Announces $146,730 in Research Grants and Traveling Fellowships

LOS ANGELES—During its 33rd Annual Meeting, the North American Spine Society (NASS) announced the winners of its 2018 Research Grants and Traveling Fellowships. These grants provide funding for promising projects by qualified investigators in the spine care field. Since 1989, NASS has funded $3.9 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 spent in three to five different medical centers studying spine techniques.

A total of $146,730 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 2018 Research Grant award winners are:

- **Young Investigator—Basic:** Does Enhancing Cartilage Endplate Permeability Improve Nucleus Pulposus Cell Function?  
  Principal Investigator: Aaron J. Fields, PhD  
  Amount: $50,000; Funding Year Two of a Two-Year Grant

- **Grant (Basic):** A Comprehensive Combinatorial Approach: Modulation of the Spinal Cord Microenvironment to Induce Regeneration Using Epidural Stimulation with Scaffolds Containing Genetically Modified Schwann Cells  
  Principal Investigator: Anthony Windebank, MD  
  Amount: $49,910; Funding Year One of a Two-Year Grant

- **Grant (Basic):** Assessing the Regenerative Capacity of Amniotic Stem Cell Seeded Nucleus Pulposus and Annulus Fibrosus Implants in an Injured and Inflamed Intervertebral Disc Explant Organ Culture  
  Principal Investigator: Jeremy J. Mercuri, PhD  
  Amount: $39,600
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- **Clinical Traveling Fellowship:** Akram Eltayib Mohamed Nasr, MBBS  
  (OHSU, Portland, OR; SUNY Downstate Medical Center, New York, NY; UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX)  
  Amount: $7,220

More than 3,000 spine professionals will meet at the NASS 33rd Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, September 26-29, 2018 at the Los Angeles Convention Center to share the latest information, innovative techniques and procedures, best practices and new technologies in the spine field. NASS 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), [NASS Facebook](http://NASS Facebook) and [NASS Twitter](http://NASS Twitter).

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