NASS Announces $150,000 in Research Grants and Traveling Fellowships

CHICAGO – During its 34th Annual Meeting, the North American Spine Society (NASS) announced the winners of its 2019 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 more than $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 $150,000 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 NASS Executive Committee.

The 2019 Research Grant award winners are:

- **Grant (Young Investigator-Clinical):** The Impact of Global Budgets on Cost, Access, Provider Practice Patterns and Complications in Elective Spine Surgery in Maryland
  Principal Investigator: Berje Shammassian, MD
  Amount: $8,274.25

- **Grant (Clinical):** Does Opioid Tapering Prior to Spinal Fusion Improve Surgical Outcomes: A Randomized Controlled Trial
  Principal Investigator: Serena S. Hu, MD
  Amount: $40,000; Funding Year One Only of a Two-Year Grant

- **Grant (Basic):** Investigating the Relationships Between Oedema and Cerebrospinal Fluid Flow and Pressure Following Spinal Cord Injury in a Large Animal Model
  Principal Investigator: Claire Jones, PhD, MSc, BSc
  Amount: $34,700.75; Partial Funding of Budget Requested
• **Grant (Translational):** Released Tumor DNA (rtDNA) as a Biomarker of Radiation-Induced Tumor Killing in Metastatic Spine Disease  
  Principal Investigator: Daniel M. Sciubba, MD  
  Amount: $30,000; Partial Funding of Budget Requested

• **Grant (Clinical):** Can Baseline Radiographic Findings Guide Surgical Technique Selection for Degenerative Spondylolisthesis?  
  Principal Investigator: Adam Pearson, MD, MS  
  Amount: $30,000

• **Clinical Traveling Fellowship:**  
  Abraham Tadele, MD  
  (Washington Univ. in St. Louis School of Medicine; Univ. of Rochester Medical Center; MU Health Care-Missouri; Mount Sinai Hospital)  
  Amount: $7,025

More than 3,000 spine professionals will meet at the NASS 34th Annual Meeting in Chicago, September 25-28, 2019 at McCormick Place 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 8,500 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 and NASS Twitter.

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