American Heart Association
Awardees by Program Type

Last Update: August 2019

AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)

Fatima Alshbool, PharmD, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: University of Texas, El Paso City/State: El Paso, TX Project Title: Investigation of the Platelet 5HT2A and P2Y1 Receptors Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 6/30/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Amirhossein Arzani, PhD, MS, BS
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: Northern Arizona University City/State: Flagstaff, AZ Project Title: The confounding effects of hemodynamics on atherosclerosis progression Award Start Date: 1/1/2019 Award End Date: 12/31/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $153,995

Kartik Balachandran, BS, MS, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville City/State: Fayetteville, AR Project Title: The role of a local renin-angiotensin system in the initiation and progression of calcific aortic valve disease Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 3/31/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Chris Bashur, BS, ME, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne City/State: Melbourne, FL Project Title: Long-term Success of Electrospun Small-Diameter Vascular Grafts with Blended Compositions Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 3/31/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Eric Beaumont, BS, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: East Tennessee State University, Johnson City City/State: Johnson City, TN Project Title: Vagal nerve stimulation mitigates alteration of the intestinal environment to limit the progression of heart failure Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 6/30/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000
Souad Belmadani, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk
City/State: Norfolk, VA
Project Title: Interleukin-12 and heart failure
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018
Award End Date: 3/31/2020
Total Years: 2
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Lanrong Bi, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Michigan Technological University, Houghton
City/State: Houghton, MI
Project Title: Molecular Insight and Pharmacological Approach Targeting Mitochondrial Dynamic in Myocardial Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019
Award End Date: 12/31/2020
Total Years: 2
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Julia Boehm, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Chapman University
City/State: Orange, CA
Project Title: Psychosocial Resources in Childhood that Protect against Cardiovascular Risk in Adulthood: The 1958 Birth Cohort Study
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018
Award End Date: 6/30/2020
Total Years: 2
Total Award Amount: $126,120

Maria Burnatowska-Hle, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Hope College
City/State: Holland, MI
Project Title: Regulation of VACM-1/CUL5 signaling in the endothelium by a novel peptide ligand.
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019
Award End Date: 12/31/2020
Total Years: 2
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Shih-Feng Chou, PhD, MS, BS
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: University of Texas, Tyler
City/State: Tyler, TX
Project Title: The use of membrane-tethered Kunitz-type inhibitors to provide thromboresistance for implantable devices
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018
Award End Date: 6/30/2020
Total Years: 2
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Xiangping Chu, PhD, MD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: University of Missouri, Kansas City
City/State: Kansas City, MO
Project Title: Brain ASIC2a-containing channels contribute to acute ischemic brain injury
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019
Award End Date: 12/31/2020
Total Years: 2
Total Award Amount: $154,000
John Collister, PhD, DVM  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
**City/State:** Minneapolis, MN  
**Project Title:** Role of Brain-Sympathetic-Gut Microbiome Axis in Hypertension  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Leslie Consitt, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Ohio University, Athens  
**City/State:** Athens, OH  
**Project Title:** Skeletal Muscle Mechanisms Involved in Obesity-Related Metabolic Inflexibility  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Daniel Credeur, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** University of Southern Mississippi  
**City/State:** Hattiesburg, MS  
**Project Title:** Targeting the Peripheral Vasculature through Intermittent Pneumatic Compression in Spinal Cord Injury  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $153,041

Lisandra De Castro Bras, PhD, BSC  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** East Carolina University  
**City/State:** Greenville, NC  
**Project Title:** Collagen peptides as biomarkers of heart failure  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Dawn Delfin, BA, MS, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** University of New Mexico - Health Sciences Center  
**City/State:** Albuquerque, NM  
**Project Title:** ABI3BP in the heart: a modulator of cardiac stem cell adhesion and differentiation  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Anca Dobrian, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk  
**City/State:** Norfolk, VA  
**Project Title:** Investigating adipose tissue microvesicles as a link between obesity and vascular dysfunction  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000
Jill Esquivel, BSN, MSN, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** University of Virginia, Charlottesville  
**City/State:** Charlottesville, VA  
**Project Title:** Getting in To Light Exercise in Heart Failure: GENTLE-HF  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Deborah Feairheller, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Ursinus College  
**City/State:** Collegeville, PA  
**Project Title:** Effects of a Combined Diet and Exercise Intervention on Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Volunteer Firefighters  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $153,930

Cerrone Foster, PhD, BS  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** East Tennessee State University, Johnson City  
**City/State:** Johnson City, TN  
**Project Title:** Estrogen Receptor Beta Signaling and Cardiac Protection from Chronic Beta Adrenergic Stimulation  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $153,962

Elena Galkina, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk  
**City/State:** Norfolk, VA  
**Project Title:** Modified LDL uptake, B cell receptor signaling, and atherosclerosis  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 3/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Rayna Gonzales, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** University of Arizona, Phoenix  
**City/State:** Phoenix, AZ  
**Project Title:** Contribution of selective vascular S1PR type 1 modulation during acute ischemic stroke  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Vivek Gupta, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** St. John’s University  
**City/State:** Queens, NY  
**Project Title:** Novel Therapies for Pulmonary Hypertension: Mechanism based Drug Repositioning for Superior Therapeutic Outcomes  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000
Taben Hale, PhD, BSC
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: University of Arizona, Phoenix  
City/State: Phoenix, AZ  
Project Title: Identifying a resident fibroblast subpopulation to target for protection against cardiac fibrosis  
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019  Award End Date: 12/31/2020  Total Years: 2  Total Award Amount: $154,000

Guichun Han, PhD, MD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Texas A&M University, College Station  
City/State: College Station, TX  
Project Title: The crosstalk of estrogen receptors and dual G-protein coupling in coronary arterioles  
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018  Award End Date: 6/30/2020  Total Years: 2  Total Award Amount: $154,000

Matthew Harber, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Ball State University  
City/State: Muncie, IN  
Project Title: Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing and Mortality Outcomes  
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018  Award End Date: 6/30/2020  Total Years: 2  Total Award Amount: $153,917

Xupei Huang, PhD, MD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Florida Atlantic University  
City/State: Boca Raton, FL  
Project Title: Correction of diastolic dysfunction and diastolic heart failure in mice with RCM  
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019  Award End Date: 12/31/2020  Total Years: 2  Total Award Amount: $154,000

Nathaniel Jenkins, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Oklahoma State University  
City/State: Stillwater, OK  
Project Title: The Clinical Utility of Resistance Training for Improving Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Post-Menopausal Women  
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018  Award End Date: 6/30/2020  Total Years: 2  Total Award Amount: $153,933

Morten Jensen, BS, MSc, PhD, DMSc
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville  
City/State: Fayetteville, AR  
Project Title: Optimizing Treatment of Coronary Bifurcation Lesions  
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018  Award End Date: 3/31/2020  Total Years: 2  Total Award Amount: $154,000
Mathumai Kanapathipillai, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
Institution: University of Michigan  
City/State: Ann Arbor, MI  
Project Title: Novel nanodepots to target ischemic stroke with minimal hemorrhagic risk  
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019  
Award End Date: 12/31/2020  
Total Years: 2  
Total Award Amount: $151,140

Jung Han Kim, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
Institution: Marshall University Research Corporation, Huntington  
City/State: Huntington, WV  
Project Title: A link between genetic variants and obesity susceptibility  
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018  
Award End Date: 6/30/2020  
Total Years: 2  
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Iurii Koboziev, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
Institution: Texas Tech University, Lubbock  
City/State: Lubbock, TX  
Project Title: Microbiome mediated anti-obesity and anti-inflammatory effects of eicosapentaenoic acid and curcumin  
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019  
Award End Date: 12/31/2020  
Total Years: 2  
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Sai Koka, BS, MS, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
Institution: University of Houston, Houston  
City/State: Houston, TX  
Project Title: Role of Trimethylamine-N-Oxide (TMAO) in endothelial and vascular injury.  
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019  
Award End Date: 12/31/2020  
Total Years: 2  
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Larry Lemanski, PhD, MS, BS
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
Institution: Texas A&M University, Commerce  
City/State: Commerce, TX  
Project Title: Human RNA that Converts iPS Cells and Fibroblasts into Cardiac Myocytes  
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019  
Award End Date: 12/31/2020  
Total Years: 2  
Total Award Amount: $154,000

Khalid Matrougui, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
Institution: Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk  
City/State: Norfolk, VA  
Project Title: Omental fat impairs VSMC function through interleukin-12 mechanism in obesity and type 2 diabetes  
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019  
Award End Date: 12/31/2020  
Total Years: 2  
Total Award Amount: $154,000
Bradley Mcconnell, PhD, BS
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: University of Houston, Houston 
City/State: Houston, TX 
Project Title: Gravin Signalosome Mediates Cardiac Signaling and Transcriptome Variation in Heart Failure 
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 
Award End Date: 6/30/2020 
Total Years: 2 
Total Award Amount: $154,000 

Mukul Mukherjee, PhD, BSC
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: University of Nebraska at Omaha 
City/State: Omaha, NE 
Project Title: Virtual Reality Augmented Gait Adaptation in Stroke Survivors 
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 
Award End Date: 6/30/2020 
Total Years: 2 
Total Award Amount: $154,000 

Scott Nowak, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Kennesaw State University Research and Service Foundation 
City/State: Kennesaw, GA 
Project Title: The role of Akirin during heart development 
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 
Award End Date: 3/31/2020 
Total Years: 2 
Total Award Amount: $154,000 

Pablo Peixoto, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Baruch College 
City/State: New York, NY 
Project Title: Mitochondrial ROS in Synaptic Plasticity 
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 
Award End Date: 3/31/2020 
Total Years: 2 
Total Award Amount: $154,000 

Brandt Pence, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: University of Memphis 
City/State: Memphis, TN 
Project Title: Glycolytic Metabolism and Cellular Function in Monocytes from Older Adults 
Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 
Award End Date: 3/31/2020 
Total Years: 2 
Total Award Amount: $154,000 

Sandrine Pierre, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) 
Institution: Marshall University Research Corporation, Huntington 
City/State: Huntington, WV 
Project Title: The Na/K-ATPase receptor function as a novel therapeutic target in myocardial infarction 
Award Start Date: 1/1/2019 
Award End Date: 12/31/2020 
Total Years: 2 
Total Award Amount: $154,000
Anand Ramasubramanian, PhD, MS, BS
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: San Jose State University Research Foundation City/State: San Jose, CA Project Title: Role of Spatial Heterogeneity on Clot Micromechanics Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 3/31/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Rolando Ramirez, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: University of Akron City/State: Akron, OH Project Title: Increased VEGF Receptor 2 Expression to Improve Maternal Physiology and Fetal Outcomes in a Rat Model of Preeclampsia Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 6/30/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Georgeta Rosca, MD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: Central Michigan University City/State: MT. PLEASANT, MI Project Title: Mitochondrial NADH/NAD+ redox ratio in high fat diet-induced cardiac disease Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 6/30/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Julien Rossignol, BS, MSc, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: Central Michigan University City/State: MT. PLEASANT, MI Project Title: A novel dendrimer-based delivery platform for endogenous brain repair after stroke Award Start Date: 4/1/2018 Award End Date: 3/31/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Heloisa Rutigliano, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: Utah State University City/State: Logan, UT Project Title: EFFECTS OF PREGNANCY AND PROGESTERONE ON ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IN A TRANSGENIC GOAT MODEL OF ATRIAL CARDIOMYOPATHY Award Start Date: 1/1/2019 Award End Date: 12/31/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000

Manish Shah, PhD
Program Type: AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) Institution: Albany College of Pharmacy City/State: Albany, NY Project Title: Genetic and Structural Determinants of Warfarin and Losartan Binding to Cytochrome P450 2C9 Award Start Date: 1/1/2019 Award End Date: 12/31/2020 Total Years: 2 Total Award Amount: $154,000
Jessica Snow, BS, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** New Mexico Highlands University  
**City/State:** Las Vegas, NM  
**Project Title:** Role of GPER in Mechanisms of Pulmonary Hypertension  
**Award Start Date:** 4/1/2018  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Andrew Udit, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Occidental College, Los Angeles  
**City/State:** Los Angeles, CA  
**Project Title:** Neutralizing heparin activity using engineered virus nanoparticles  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2021  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Marcella Vaicik, PhD, MS, BS  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago  
**City/State:** Chicago, IL  
**Project Title:** Research and Education Program for Magnetic Resonance-based 3D Biomarker of Oxygen Utility in the Brain and Heart  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Shu Wang, MD, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Texas Tech University, Lubbock  
**City/State:** Lubbock, TX  
**Project Title:** Browning white adipose tissue inhibits atherosclerosis development  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Colin Wu, BS, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Oakland University  
**City/State:** Rochester, MI  
**Project Title:** Predicting the cardiovascular risks of BRCA1 mutations  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Jinjun Xia, BS, MS, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Lawrence Technological University  
**City/State:** Southfield, MI  
**Project Title:** Shear Wave and Optical Imaging Based Non-Destructive Biomechanical Evaluation of Tissue Engineered Blood Vessels (TEBV)  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $151,734
Xiaoyang Xu, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** New Jersey Institute of Technology  
**City/State:** Newark, NJ  
**Project Title:** Improving Post-MI Cardiac Function via Delivery of Mydgf using an Injectable and Fluorescent Polyester-Based Hydrogel  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Huimin Yan, BS, MS, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** University of Massachusetts Boston  
**City/State:** Boston, MA  
**Project Title:** Effect of Exercise Training on Microvascular Function and Sympathetic Reactivity in African American and Caucasian Woman  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Ge Zhang, MD, PhD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** University of Akron  
**City/State:** Akron, OH  
**Project Title:** Development of a Vascularized Engineered Myocardial Tissue for Cardiac Repair  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000

Yan Zhang, PhD, BS  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** North Dakota State University, Fargo  
**City/State:** Fargo, ND  
**Project Title:** Enhancement of Left Atrial Appendage Flow using Artificial Superhydrophobic Surface  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 6/30/2021  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $150,887

Zhengshan Zhao, PhD, MD  
**Program Type:** AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)  
**Institution:** Texas A&M University, Commerce  
**City/State:** Commerce, TX  
**Project Title:** Repair of damaged myocardium using human-heart RNA in rat myocardial infarction model  
**Award Start Date:** 1/1/2019  
**Award End Date:** 12/31/2020  
**Total Years:** 2  
**Total Award Amount:** $154,000