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BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, BRIGHAM WOMENS, BROAD INSTITUTE, CHILDRENS, DANAFARBER, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, MIT, MASS GENERAL, TUFTS UNIVERSITY, UMASS

Mass. researchers score grants for innovative projects

Posted by Elizabeth Cooney September 30, 2009 12:52 PM

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Massachusetts has made a strong showing in a \$348 million federal grant program that encourages biomedical researchers to engage in high-risk projects with the potential to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into treatments.

Eleven of 42 [Transformational RO1 grants](#) are flowing to scientists in the state and 12 of 55 [New Innovator](#) award winners are based here. One of 18 [Pioneer Award](#) recipients is from Massachusetts. All three programs from the **National Institutes of Health** are designed to spur exploration that may have been deemed too risky in past rounds.

Here are the winners, their institutions, and their projects.

Pioneer (\$2.5 million over 5 years):

Leona D. Samson, MIT: developing novel, high-throughput approaches to measure the ability of cells from different people to resist the toxic effects of a wide variety of DNA-damaging agents present in the environment and currently in clinical use

New Innovators (\$1.5 million over five years):

Dr. Mark W. Albers, Massachusetts General Hospital: The olfactory neural circuit as a systems level model of neurodegenerative diseases

Fernando Camargo, Children's Hospital Boston: Analysis of stem cell dynamics and differentiation by cellular barcoding

Dr. Ted Cohen, Brigham and Women's Hospital: Prevalence, risk factors and consequences of complex M. tuberculosis infections

Gabriel Kreiman, Children's: Towards the neuronal correlates of visual awareness

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