



NIH funds risky, potentially transformative research by Harvard faculty members

18 Harvard scientists among 115 nationwide to receive grants

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HARVARD STAFF WRITER

Eighteen faculty members at Harvard and Harvard-affiliated institutions are among 115 scientists nationally whose promising and innovative work was recognized today with the announcement of three grant programs by the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**.

The grants, expected to total \$348 million over five years for recipients nationwide, finance high-risk, high-reward work through the new **NIH Director's Transformative R01 Awards**, recognize established researchers through the Pioneer Awards, and they encourage young scientists through **New Innovator Awards**. Harvard faculty members were recipients of Transformative and New Innovator awards.

The programs are part of an effort to accelerate the pace of discovery by encouraging highly innovative research, according to the NIH.

"The appeal of the ... programs is that investigators are encouraged to challenge the status quo with innovative ideas, while being given the necessary resources to test them," said NIH Director **Francis S. Collins**.

In fiscal 2009, Transformative Awards will provide \$30 million to investigators, while **Pioneer Awards** are expected to be funded at \$13.5 million and New Innovator Awards will total \$131 million.

Harvard faculty receiving Transformative Awards:

Frederick Ausubel, professor of genetics at **Harvard Medical School** and **Massachusetts General Hospital**.

Sylvie Breton, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Gaudenz Danuser, professor of cell biology at Harvard Medical School.

Ru-Rong Ji, associate professor of anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and **Brigham and Women's Hospital**, and **Charles Serhan**, Simon Gelman Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

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<!-- [if !supportLists]-->**Loren Walensky**, assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and the **Dana-Farber Cancer Institute**.

<!-- [if !supportLists]-->**Xiaoliang Sunney Xie**, Mallinckrodt Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in the **Faculty of Arts and Sciences** at Harvard University.

Harvard faculty receiving New Innovator Awards:

<!-- [endif]-->**Mark Albers**, instructor in neurology at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

<!-- [if !supportLists]-->**Fernando Camargo**, assistant professor of stem cell and regenerative biology at Harvard University and **Children's Hospital**.

<!-- [if !supportLists]-->**Theodore Cohen**, assistant professor of epidemiology in the **Harvard School of Public Health** and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

<!-- [if !supportLists]--> <!-- [endif]-->**Gabriel Kreiman**, assistant professor of ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital.

<!-- [if !supportLists]-->**Jorge Rodrigo Mora**, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

<!-- [endif]-->**Sunitha Nagrath**, instructor in surgery at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

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<!-- [if !supportLists]--> <!-- [endif]-->**John Rinn**, assistant professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**, and the **Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard**.

<!-- [if !supportLists]--> <!-- [endif]-->**Pardis Sabeti**, assistant professor of organismic and evolutionary biology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University.

<!-- [if !supportLists]--> <!-- [endif]-->**Magali Saint-Geniez**, instructor in ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and **Schepens Eye Research Institute**.

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