



JAN | 2026

## Message from the Longer Life Foundation Leadership Team

Welcome to the January issue of the Longer Life Foundation (LLF) newsletter. As we turn the page on a new year, we are energized by the momentum across the Foundation and excited to share a preview of what lies ahead in 2026. If this email was forwarded to you by a colleague, we invite you to subscribe [here](#) to stay connected to the Foundation's work, updates, and events. And if you ever have questions, we are always here to help.

The start of a new year invites fresh thinking about the future of health and longevity, a future shaped by curiosity, collaboration, and bold scientific exploration. Since its founding in 1998, LLF has funded over 172 investigations and supported more than 180 peer-reviewed research articles—proof of the enduring impact that focused, early-stage investment can have on advancing science and improving lives.

Their dedication and creativity continue to inspire us. As their projects gain momentum in the months ahead, we look forward to sharing stories of discovery, progress, and impact with you.

Thank you,

*Preeti Dalawari*



**Preeti Dalawari, MD, MSPH, DBIM**  
Managing Director, Longer Life Foundation  
Vice President and Medical Director, USIL, RGA



**Joseph Zhang, PhD**  
Deputy Director, Longer Life Foundation  
Vice President & Senior Actuary, Enterprise Risk Analytics, RGA

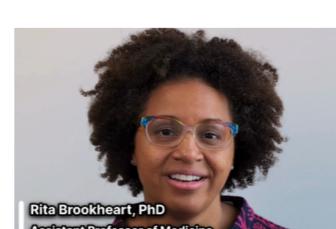
## January Informational Meeting

This year's Longer Life Foundation informational session, held on Wednesday, January 14, brought together a dozen promising researchers eager to explore new avenues in longevity science. Attendees represented a wide range of disciplines—including pediatrics, pathology/OB-GYN, nephrology, occupational therapy, cardiology, and endocrinology—reflecting the Foundation's commitment to fostering cross-disciplinary thinking.

Led by the LLF Administrative Team, the session provided a forum to learn about the Foundation, and how their emerging research aligns with the Longer Life Foundation's mission to advance scientific insights that promote longer, healthier lives.



## Introducing the Longer Life Foundation's *Voices of Discovery* Video Series



Rita Brookhart, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Division of Nutritional Sciences and Obesity Medicine

We're excited to launch the Longer Life Foundation's *Voices of Discovery* video series—a multi-part look at the people behind the science. Each installment spotlights what inspires our researchers, why their work matters, and how their discoveries help people live longer, healthier lives.

Throughout the year, the LLF marketing and communications team will release new videos on the LLF LinkedIn page, with each post linking to a dedicated video section on the LLF website. Stay tuned on social media for the latest releases, or click the image to watch the first feature highlighting Dr. Rita Brookhart.

## News from LLF Researchers



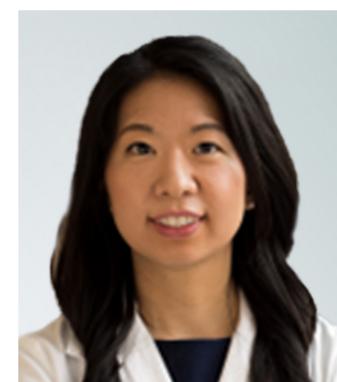
**Jessica Silva-Fisher, PhD (awardee 2022-2024)**  
Continued to advance the field of cancer research with two major achievements this year. She was recently awarded a US patent for compositions and methods related to multiple myeloma associated long noncoding RNAs (US Patent No. 19,066,0088), recognizing her innovative work in identifying and targeting novel RNA mechanisms in disease.

Dr. Silva-Fisher also received an NIH/NCI R01 Research Project Grant for her study, characterizing RNA modified long noncoding RNAs in multiple myeloma, a five-year project running from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

This LLF associated research aims to deepen scientific understanding of RNA biology in multiple myeloma and uncover new pathways for diagnosis and treatment.



**Leslie Gewin, MD (awardee 2023-2024)**  
Named the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor of Renal Disease in the Department of Medicine. This distinguished professorship recognizes Dr. Gewin's outstanding contributions to kidney research and her leadership in advancing the understanding and treatment of renal disease. Her work continues to shape the field and inspire the next generation of researchers.



**Jennie Kwon, DO, MSCI (awardee 2017-2019)**  
Appointed the Gene Stollerman Professor and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. This prestigious role recognizes Dr. Kwon's leadership in infectious disease research, her commitment to advancing patient care, and her national impact as a physician scientist.

## LLF Spring Advisory Group Meeting



Mark your calendars for the Spring 2026 meeting of the Longer Life Foundation Advisory Group, which will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. CST. The meeting will feature a discussion of the 2026 letters of intent as reviewed and presented by the Scientific Review Committee. Please watch your inbox for the invitation.



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