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JUNE | 2026

Message from the Longer Life Foundation Leadership Team

Welcome to the June 2026 issue of the Longer Life Foundation (LLF) newsletter. We are now midway through the year, with significant activity underway across the Foundation. LLF remains committed to supporting research that advances understanding of mortality, morbidity, and pathways to improved longevity and health. This mission is reflected in the work of our grantees. We continue to expand opportunities for both past and current investigators to share their findings and highlight the impact of their research. Examples of these efforts are featured below and will continue to evolve.

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. If you have questions, please contact us at your convenience.

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

Voices of Discovery Video Series

As previously announced, we have begun producing videos that highlight our researchers, the people behind the science – what inspires them, why their work matters, and how their discoveries help people live longer, healthier lives.

Told directly from the researchers themselves, this ongoing series is promoted on LinkedIn and can be found on the LLF website. Explore the videos to learn more about our investigators' stories, and stay tuned for future installments.



From Preeclampsia to Prevention: The Research Journey Fueling New Insights



How can early philanthropic funding accelerate high-impact cardiovascular research? In this Q&A, Dr. Kathryn J. Lindley reflects on how support from the Longer Life Foundation helped launch a research program examining the connection between pregnancy complications and future cardiovascular risk. She discusses how the LLF's backing enabled critical imaging and data collection that ultimately supported NIH R01 funding, and she shares how these findings are shaping patient counseling and future intervention studies. This conversation offers both scientific insight and a compelling example of how targeted funding can drive long-term impact.

Dr. Lindley's Q&A can be viewed here.

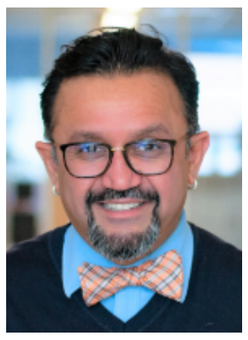
Recapping Our Spring Advisory Meeting

On May 13, we held our spring advisory meeting, where we reviewed the 2026 letters of intent cycle, which drew 35 submissions across a wide range of topics, making selections especially difficult given the strength and diversity of the applications. The Scientific Review Committee presented its recommendations to the Advisory Group, after which nine applicants were invited to submit full proposals. We anticipate that several current grantees will request an additional year of funding. In that meeting, we also shared updates on LLF marketing and communications efforts, including videos, social media, the website, and broader awareness-building initiatives.

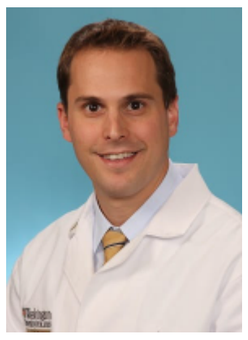
News from LLF Researchers



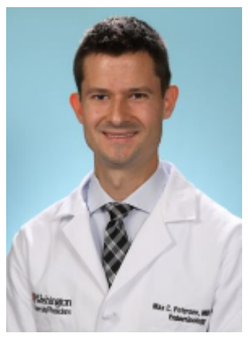
Milan Chheda, MD (awardee 2022–2024)
Received a nearly $1.5 million grant from the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation to advance a novel viral-based immunotherapy for glioblastoma. The three-year award supports development of an engineered virus that selectively targets tumor cells while sparing healthy brain tissue, with the goal of moving the therapy toward a first-in-human clinical trial.



Gautam Dantas, PhD (awardee 2023–2025)
Contributed as a collaborator to WashU Medicine research examining antibiotic use in premature infants. The work showed that routine prophylactic antibiotics can disrupt the developing gut microbiome and may increase later infection risk. Findings have helped support more targeted antibiotic use in neonatal intensive care units without increasing mortality.



Kory J. Lavine, MD, PhD (awardee 2016–2018)
Named a collaborator on NIH-funded studies totaling nearly $6.4 million focused on cardiac muscle function in heart failure. The research examines how genetic variations affect troponin, a key protein involved in heart contraction, with the goal of informing more precise, mechanism-based approaches to heart-failure treatment.



Max Petersen, MD, PhD (awardee 2025–2026)
Featured in a *Medscape* article discussing how visceral fat tends to increase with age and why it poses greater risk for metabolic and cardiovascular disease than subcutaneous fat. Dr. Petersen highlighted factors influencing visceral-fat accumulation and emphasized the importance of patient education around long-term health risks.

Additionally, he was quoted in a *Women's Health* article on Wegovy injections versus the newly approved oral formulation. Dr. Petersen noted that a daily pill may improve access for some patients and that both options share the same underlying mechanism.

Mark Your Calendar

The next LLF Advisory Group (virtual) meeting will be on August 31 at 9:00 a.m. CST and will focus on a review of the 2026 grant application pool. It will showcase the insights evolving from researchers on current and emerging clinical and public health issues. Please add the date to your calendar!

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