



GROUND BREAKING INSIGHTS
FOR LONGER
HEALTHIER LIVES.

September 2024

Message From Longer Life Foundation Leadership

Welcome to the September 2024 issue of the Longer Life Foundation (LLF) newsletter. It's been a busy summer at LLF and we are pleased to share updates from the last few months. If this email was forwarded to you by a colleague, we invite you to subscribe [here](#) to stay up to date with the Foundation's plans and events. And if you have any questions, please reach out to us at any time.



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Managing Director, Longer Life Foundation
Senior Vice President, Chief Science Advisor, RGA



Preeti Dalawari, M.D., MSPH, ALMI
Deputy Managing Director and Director of Member Engagement, Longer Life Foundation
Vice President and Medical Director, USIL, RGA



Leadership Change

After many years serving as Deputy Managing Director and then Managing Director, Dr. Dan Zimmerman will be stepping down from the role on January 1, 2025. He will remain with RGA, but in a part-time, project-focused role.

Dr. Preeti Dalawari, who is currently our Deputy Managing Director, will become the new Managing Director. She and Dan have already been working closely to ensure a smooth transition. Additionally, Joseph Zhang has agreed to come on board as the new Deputy Managing Director. Joseph has been involved previously with the LLF and has close ties with Washington University.

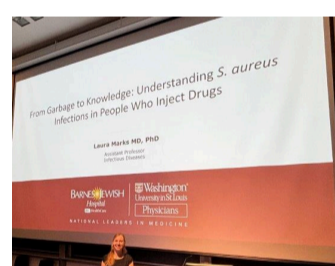
Many thanks to the Longer Life Foundation community for being such a supportive, welcoming and engaged group. The team is looking forward to this next chapter of leadership and know there are exciting times ahead.

2024 Grant Recipients

The Longer Life Foundation Board of Governors has recently approved the recommended grant applications put forth by the Scientific Review Committee and Advisory Group.

Congratulations to the 2024 Longer Life Foundation grant recipients!

Investigator	Title of Research Project
Ali Javaheri, MD, PhD (Longevity Research Program)	Mitigating Doxorubicin Toxicity Utilizing Dietary Interventions to Reduce Skeletal Muscle Loss and Prevent Cardiomyopathy
Gautam Dantas, PhD (Year 2)	Exfoliome Characterization of Alzheimer's Disease Patients
Elizabeth Pollina, PhD (Year 2)	Neuronal Activity-Dependent DNA Repair in Healthy Aging
Lindsay Underhill, MPH, PhD (Year 1)	Investigating Geographic Disparities in Social Determinants of Health and Hypertension in the Greater St. Louis Area
Rita Brookheart, PhD (Year 1)	Enhancing Muscle Mass and Metabolism to Combat Muscle Dysfunction
Kathleen Markan, PhD (Year 1)	Anti-Senescent Approaches to Adipose Tissue in Aging
Priyanka Verma, BS, MS, PhD (Year 1)	High-content Approach to Predict Cancer Predisposing Germline Mutations in BRCA1 Gene
Eva Klinman, MD, PhD (Year 1)	Evaluation of Neuronal Changes Associated with Healthy Aging and Alzheimer's Disease in Directly Converted Human Neurons



September Grand Rounds: "From Garbage to Knowledge: Understanding S. aureus Infections in People Who Inject Drugs"

The latest Grand Rounds on September 19th featured Dr. Laura Marks, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine. Dr. Marks specializes in clinical infectious diseases (ID) with a special focus on infectious complications in people who inject drugs. She attends on the general infectious diseases consult service teaching fellows, residents, and students. Dr. Marks also oversees the Bridge to Health (outpatient) program where she meets with patients who face injection drug use associated infections.

Dr. Marks' presentation can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Former and Current Grant Recipients Who've Received Awards

- **[Alex Holehouse, PhD:](#)**
 - Received a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The five-year, \$1.3 million award will support his research into intrinsically disordered proteins.
- **[Laura Marks, MD, PhD:](#)**
 - With Madeline McCrary, MD, received a FOCUS grant from Gilead Sciences, Inc. to improve the rates of HIV, HCV, and HBV screenings and linkage to care. Drs. Marks and McCrary will expand a targeted testing approach and rapid linkage to care to inpatients at Barnes Jewish Hospital (BJH) who are over 18 years of age with substance use disorder.
- **[Nathan Stitzel, MD, PhD:](#)**
 - Received the American Heart Association's Mid-Career Award in Genomic and Precision Medicine. Given every other year, the award recognizes scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the fields of functional genomics, precision medicine, and translational biology.



Mark Your Calendars:

(1) LLF's Fall Advisory Group meeting is set for Monday, November 4th, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am, Central time. Three alumni investigators – [Jessica Silva-Fisher](#), [Gautam Dantas](#), and [Hrishikesh Kulkarni](#) – will discuss their continuing investigations.

This meeting will be hybrid, enabling participants to attend either in person at Washington University or remotely via Zoom. Advisory Group members, please check your inboxes as you should be receiving an invitation to the meeting that includes additional information as well as a dedicated link.

(2) LLF's Support of ICLAM 2025 - LLF is pleased to provide an educational grant to support the International Committee for Insurance Medicine (ICLAM) 2025 Conference to be held in Estoril, Portugal May 11 - 14, 2025. Follow [this link](#) for conference registration information. Of particular interest and relevance is the dual keynote addresses that will focus on the themes of ageing and longevity.