

Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals Case Medical Center Announces Grant Funding to Physician-Scientists at Major Academic Medical Centers to Support New Drug Development

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CLEVELAND, Dec. 5, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- The Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals Case Medical Center has announced the recipients of the inaugural grant program focused at supporting the nation's best physician-scientists and their efforts to accelerate promising drug discoveries into novel treatments for patients.

For the last decade, American medicine has been challenged in developing new drugs. Lacking government funding or adequate industry support, many researchers have discoveries that are unable to advance into clinical development.

Aimed at addressing this critical issue, the Harrington Discovery Institute opened a competitive annual grant competition in May to identify the nation's most propitious medical breakthroughs and to accelerate their entry into the clinic. This year's inaugural grant program will award 10 of the nation's most promising physician-scientists with Harrington Scholar-Innovator grants of up to \$200,000 over two years. In addition, these Scholar Innovators will be given access to a newly formed world class Innovation Support Center, where industry experts will provide critical commercialization assistance and financial resources to progress the discoveries into products.

"This is an important step in our efforts to create a new model for drug discovery and development in academia," says the institute's director, Jonathan Stamler, MD. "Supporting physician-scientists through the Harrington Scholar-Innovator grants and Innovation Support Center will address the funding and expertise gaps that exist, thereby helping these researchers to move their clinical discoveries forward."

The 2012 Harrington Scholar-Innovator grant recipients are:

- Marc Diamond, MD – Washington University in St. Louis
Alzheimer's disease: Development of a novel "anti tau" antibody therapy for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dem
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