



Alumni Directory

2018 - 2024

The Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation is committed to effecting permanent positive change in the lives of the residents of Greater Boston, particularly individuals and families in economically disadvantaged communities. Today, three generations of the Smith family oversee the Foundation, stewarding approximately \$15 million annually in grants aimed at promoting greater health, educational attainment, and economic mobility. In the area of health, the Foundation supports the advancement of biomedical research and the expansion of access to high - quality health care at safety net institutions serving low - income individuals and communities of Greater Boston.

The Smith Family Foundation : Odyssey Award was created in 2017 to fuel creativity and innovation in junior investigators in the basic sciences. The Award supports the pursuit of high impact ideas to generate breakthroughs and drive new directions in biomedical research. The Award funds high - risk, high - reward pilot projects solicited from the brightest junior faculty in the region. The Awards are currently in the amount of \$ 400,000 over two years.

Since 2018, the Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award has helped launch the careers of 37 outstanding scientists with support totaling \$ 12.1million.

The following is a listing of all Award Recipients in alphabetical order with current contact information as well as the title of the funded research project. The Smith Family is extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments of its Awardees and is honored to provide the critical support for their newly established research programs.

Jonathan Abraham, M.D., Ph.D.
(2022 Award Recipient)
Cracking the codes of emerging virus

Elena Gracheva, Ph.D.
(2018 Award Recipient)
Regulation of Fluid and Ionic Balance
Under Extreme Physiological States in a
Mammalian Hibernator
Yale University
elena.gracheva@yale.edu

Yonatan Grad, M.D., Ph.D.
(2020 Award Recipient)

Wesley Philip Wong, Ph.D.
(2019 Award Recipient)
Single-Molecule Protein Identification
with Mechanical Nanocalipers
Boston Children's Hospital
wong@idi.harvard.edu