



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Awards \$1.45M in Grants Supporting Sickle Cell Disease Research**

NEW YORK, December 12, 2012 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation announced today \$1.45 million in renewal grants for projects focused on sickle cell disease. Funded through the Innovations in Clinical Research Award, three projects will receive \$486,000 each over three years to extend work that could significantly impact the understanding and treatment of sickle cell disease. (See below for a list of awardees.)

The Doris Duke Innovations in Clinical Research Award (ICRA) provides funding for early-stage, innovative research projects that will catalyze breakthroughs in targeted disease areas. In an effort to strengthen the field of sickle cell research, ICRA has focused on sickle cell disease since 2009. In that time, the foundation has funded 20 projects totaling \$9.7 million, including these latest awards.

For the 2012 competition, recipients of 2009 and 2010 ICRA sickle cell disease grants whose 3-year projects were ending were invited to apply for renewal funding to further advance projects that are on the brink of exciting discoveries.

“We hope these latest grants will further the understanding of this inherited condition and advance new therapies to treat sickle disease, which affects millions of people throughout the world and can result in pain, organ damage and early death,” said Betsy Myers, Director of the Medical Research Program.

#### **2012 Innovations in Clinical Research Awardees**

##### ***Targeted Derepression of Fetal Hemoglobin in Sickle Cell Disease***

James E. Bradner, MD  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

##### ***Genomic and Functional Analyses of Erythrocyte Hydration Pathways as Modifiers in Sickle Cell Disease***

Patrick G. Gallagher, MD, and Vincent P. Schulz, PhD  
Yale University

### ***Translating Genetic Discoveries to Improve Sickle Cell Disease Prognosis and Treatment***

Joel N. Hirschhorn, MD, PhD, and Guillaume Lettre, PhD  
Broad Institute and Université de Montréal, Montreal Heart Institute

#### **About the Medical Research Program**

Since 1998, the foundation's Medical Research Program has committed approximately \$259 million to strengthen and support clinical research that advances the translation of biomedical discoveries into new treatments, preventions and cures for human diseases. To learn more about the program or to sign up to receive competition announcements, visit [www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org).

#### **About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.

#### **About Doris Duke on the Centenary of Her Birth**

Born on November 22, 1912 in New York City, Doris Duke was the only child of John Buchanan (J.B.) Duke, a founder of the American Tobacco Company and Duke Energy Company. When J.B. Duke died in 1925, he divided his fortune between Doris, who was then only 12 years old, and the Duke Endowment. Intelligent, adventurous, and independent, Doris Duke used her wealth to pursue her many interests, which included the arts, historic preservation and environmental conservation, and to fund a variety of public causes, including medical research and child welfare. When she was just 21, she established a foundation called Independent Aid through which she gave away the equivalent of hundreds of millions in today's dollars—often as anonymous contributions. As a lifelong philanthropist, she was a frequent supporter of hospitals and research centers as well as an early funder of AIDS research. At age 56, she also established the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF) to save the rapidly disappearing 18th-century architecture in Newport, Rhode Island. Finally, through her will, she established her ongoing legacy by calling for the creation of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF), which has to date awarded more than \$1 billion in grants. ([www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org))