In 1982, the board of directors of Alpha Omega Alpha established five student research fellowship awards to encourage and support student research. Since then, the awards have grown in number and dollar amount, and the board now allocates up to $175,000 annually for this project. As many as 50 $3000 awards are made, and $500 is available for each recipient’s faculty mentor to help meet expenses incurred in support of the project. In 2004, the name of the fellowship program was changed to the Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship awards in honor of Carolyn L. Kuckein, AΩA’s longtime administrator, who died in January 2004.

Evaluations of the fellowship proposals were made by: Ruth-Marie Fincher, M.D., and Donald E. Wilson, M.D., committee co-chairmen; C. Bruce Alexander, M.D. Michael V. Drake, M.D.; N. Joseph Espat, M.D.; William Frishman, M.D.; Rae-Ellen W. Kavey, M.D.; Douglas S. Paauw, M.D.; Don W. Powell, M.D.; Donald B. Russell, M.D.; Troy L. Thompson II, M.D.; Donald E. Wilson, M.D.

In 2004, Andrew D. Martin of Tulane University School of Medicine was awarded an AΩA Student Research Fellowship. Because of treatment for an ongoing illness, Andrew was unable to begin his research, and he died on November 19, 2004. In his honor, AΩA is funding a second research fellowship at Tulane in Andrew’s name, which was awarded to Mr. Landon Trost of the Class of 2007 for his project, “Efficacy of povidone-iodine on intravitreally injected Propionibacterium acnes in the rabbit model.”

We extend our sincere sympathy to Andrew’s parents on his loss.

Arun Aneja, Class of 2007
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
“Surgical infection prophylaxis with slow release antibiotics”
Laurence E. Dahners, M.D., mentor
Amelia F. Drake, M.D., councilor

Ali Baker, Class of 2008
University of California, Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
“Intracellular calcium dynamics plays a crucial role in genesis of ventricular fibrillation”
Alan Garfinkel, Ph.D., mentor
Neil H. Parker, M.D., councilor

Heather Bartsch, Class of 2007
Baylor College of Medicine
“The effect of matric metalloproteinase-9 on vascular smooth muscle cell apoptosis”
Xing Li Wang, M.D., Ph.D., mentor
Kristin Angelie Kassaw, M.D., councilor

Edward W. Baumgartner, Jr., Class of 2007
University of Texas Medical School at Houston
“Glucolipotoxicity and cardiac dysfunction in the clinically severe obese”
Heinrich Taegtmeyer, M.D., D.Phil., mentor
Eugene Boisaubin, M.D., councilor

Keith M. Blechman, Class of 2006
New York University School of Medicine
“Hypoxia-specific regulation of multipotent adult progenitor cell proliferation, differentiation, and migration”
Geoffrey C. Gurtner, M.D., mentor
Steven Abramson, M.D., councilor

Megan M. Boysen, Class of 2007
University of California, Irvine, College of Medicine
“Sensitivity of FAST scan to detect clinically significant injuries in pediatric blunt abdominal trauma”
J. Christian Fox, M.D., mentor
Michael Berman, M.D., and Ranjan Gupta, M.D., councilors

Mohamad Raafat Chaaban, Class of 2006
American University of Beirut
“The effects of angiotensin II receptor subtype 1 antagonist and insulin on the uriniferous tubules in diabetic Sprague-Dawley rats”
Anwar B. Bikhazi, Ph.D., mentor
Ibrahim Salti, M.D., councilor

Patrick Eckert, Class of 2006
Temple University School of Medicine
“Airway measurement by high resolution CT and outcomes of lung volume reduction surgery”
Gerard J. Criner, M.D., mentor
Amy J. Goldberg, M.D., councilor

Robert A. Ellis, Class of 2008
University of Chicago, Division of the Biological Sciences
Pritzker School of Medicine
“Litigation and quality of care in nursing homes: Does medical malpractice deterrence work?”
Elmer D. Abbo, M.D., J.D., mentor
Holly H. Humphrey, M.D., councilor

Jeremy Etzkorn, Class of 2008
Washington University School of Medicine
“Acute effects of HIV protease inhibitors on amino acid transport”
Paul Hruz, M.D., Ph.D., mentor
Morton E. Smith, M.D., councilor

Clifton David Fuller, Class of 2006
University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio
“Clinical and dosimetric analysis of image-guided intensity modulated radiotherapy (IG-IMRT) for biliary tract tumors”
Charles R. Thomas, Jr., M.D., mentor
Robert J. Nolan, Jr., M.D., councilor

Alexander H. Gelbard, Class of 2006
Tulane University School of Medicine
“The role of tumor microenvironmental B7-H1 in tumor regulatory T-cell differentiation”
Tyler Curiel, M.D., M.P.H., mentor
Elma I. LeDoux, M.D., councilor

Stephen G. George, Class of 2008
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
“I’ve fallen, but I can get up: Inhibition of bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) signaling as a potential therapy for osteoarthritis (OA)”
Randy N. Rosier, M.D., Ph.D., mentor
Elethea Caldwell, M.D., councilor

Sailaja Ghanta, Class of 2008
Albany Medical College
“Involvement of BCL11B in repression of IL-2 expression”
Dorina Avram, Ph.D., mentor
Neil Lempert, M.D., councilor

Ravindra Alok Gupta, Class of 2008
Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health
“The coordination of services for families with co-occurring child and domestic violence”
Kelly J. Kelleher, M.D., M.P.H., mentor
Sheryl Pfeil, M.D., councilor

Nieka K. Harris, Class of 2006
Temple University School of Medicine
“Exploring racial differences in rheumatoid arthritis: Taking steps now to avoid future disparities in targeted therapy”
Raul A. DeLa Cadena, M.D., mentor
Amy J. Goldberg, M.D., councilor
Antje M. Herlyn, Class of 2007
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine
"Effects of potential anti-cancer drugs in an animal model of tri-geminal neuropathic pain"
Michael Hamony, B.D., and Allen Basham, Ph.D., mentors
Steven Z. Pamid, M.D., councilor
Sarah Grim Hostetler, Class of 2008
Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health
"Eye injury-associated hospitalizations in the United States, 2000–2002"
Huiyin Xiang, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., mentor
Sheryl Pinz, M.D., councilor
Michael Steven Hughes, Class of 2006
University of Minnesota–Columbia School of Medicine
"Wise characteristics of ceramic natural bone implants sustaining varying degrees of surface damage in comparison to undamaged controls"
B. Jonne Beef, M.D., M.B.A., mentor
Thomas J. Sebra, M.D., councilor
Jeffrey T. Jacobs, Class of 2007
Mayo Medical School AΩA Association
"RY-His, an inducer of T-α-cell apoptosis, is expressed more abundantly in high grade gliomas compared to lower grade tumors"
Joon H. Uhm, M.D., mentor
Judith Salmot Kau, M.D., councilor
Sarah Komble, Class of 2006
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine
"Antimicrobial treatment practices for management of fever in children in urban Kampala"
Sarah Stadler, M.D., mentor
Sarah P. Pamid, M.D., councilor
Arman Kicic, Class of 2008
University of Chicago, School of Medicine
"Characterization of the inflammatory and neurodegenerative basis of achalasia"
Dan J. Lukberich, M.D., councilor
Carl R. Fuhrman, M.D., councilor
Katherine Kriston, Class of 2008
University of Texas Medical School at Galveston
"Characterization of a bifurator defusor function, external uterine function and fetal continence in a model of renal ureteral ganglia injury"
Clare E. Hulshoeck, Ph.D., mentor
Don W. Powell, M.D., councilor
Clayton David Knox, Class of 2007
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
"Theoretical effects of IP receptor inhibitors in liver ischemia reperfusion injury"
Ravi S. Chari, M.D., mentor
John A. Zic, M.D., councilor
Paul B. Lewis, Class of 2007
Rush Medical College of Rush University
"Quantitative analysis of neuronal plasticity correlated with clinical pathology of the hepatic bicuspid tendo"
Brian J. Cole, M.D., mentor
Richard J. Abrams, M.D., councilor
Nikki A. Libard, Class of 2008
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
"Development of osteoarthritis: Immunostaining approaches to staining in the rabbit model"  
Sivamani, Class of 2008
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
"The role of platelet activating factor in the development of neuropathy in the rabbit model"  
Matthew S. Smith, Class of 2007
West Virginia University School of Medicine
"The educational effectiveness of home density measurements in osteoporosis education"
Gregory J. Oddy, M.D., mentor
Melanie A. Fisher, M.D., M.S., councilor
Alexandra Snyder, Class of 2008
Monte Sinai Medical School of New York University
"A potential role for Vpr in podocyte differentiation in HIV-associated nephropathy"
Mary E. Klotman, M.D., mentor
Lisa Bensinger, M.D., and Suzanne Rose, M.D., M.S.Ed., councilors
Nancy Soorinck, Class of 2007
Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami
"Isolating dysfunctional from dead retinal ganglion cells in glaucoma-tous neuropathy"
Vittorio Porscitti, D.Sc., mentor
Alex J. Lachman, M.D., councilor
Tiffany Sun, Class of 2008
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
"A prospective, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the analgesic benefits of COX-2 inhibitors in obese patients undergoing major laparoscopic surgical procedures"
Pam F. White, Ph.D., M.D., mentor
Kevin W. Khan, M.D., councilor
Christopher Henry Swan, Class of 2007
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
"SERCACE gene therapy for heart failure: A novel approach to a challenging problem"
Barry Lancy, M.D., Ph.D., mentor
Carl Fullerman, M.D., councilor
Landon Tom, Class of 2007
Tulane University School of Medicine
"Efficacy of posaconazole in intraventricular injected propionibacterium acnes in the rabbit model"
Gholam A. Peyman, M.D., mentor
Elina L. Christofferson, Ph.D., councilor
Jonathan Wandner, Class of 2008
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
"Determining the ultrastructure and composition of inclusion in the Rta model of Huntington’s disease"
James Morton, M.D., Ph.D., mentor
Jon B. Morris, M.D., councilor
Stephanie Worledge, Class of 2009
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
"Quality Assessment of tuberculosis microscopy laboratories in the Kampa area"
Christopher Whalen, M.D., M.S., mentor
Joseph Liebman, M.D., councilor
Jacky Liu, Class of 2008
Drexel University College of Medicine
"To identify targets and/or regulators of BRCA1 E3 ligase activity by subtractive proteomic analysis using 2D gel analysis and tandem af"