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 to more than fifty each year.

The fellowship emphasizes a student-designed and initiated project with an academic mentor. Recipients of the fellowship tell us that the awards have helped them to learn about the joys of scientific and scholarly discovery, and increase their critical understanding of scholarship and research in health care and science. Many recipients of the fellowship have followed up their work as student-researchers to become physician-scientists.

The student receives a $5000 award, with $1000 available for travel to a national meeting to present the research results. 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 reviewers: C. Bruce Alexander, MD; Thomas T. Andersen, PhD; Robert G. Atnip, MD; James J. Barbee, MD; Jeremiah Barondess, MD; Syamal K. Bhattacharya, PhD, CLD; Sylvia Brice, MD; Paul A. Bunn, MD; Tim Byers, MD, MPH; R. William Caldwell, PhD; Stephen Y. Chan, MD; Lynn M. Cleary, MD; Philip Cohen, MD; N. Joseph Espat, MD; Ruth-Marie Fincher, MD; Daniel Foster, MD; James G. Gamble, MD; Richard F. Gillum, MD, MS; Hunter Groninger, MD; Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD; Diane Harper, MD, MPH, MS; Eve J. Higginbotham, SM, MD; Joseph A. Hill, MD, PhD; Pascal Imperato, MD, MPH&TM; Marc G. Jeschke, MD, PhD; William M. Lee, MD; Gerald Morris, MD, Lesley Motheral, MD; Douglas S. Pauw, MD; Thoru Pederson, PhD; Suzann Pershing, MD; Sheryl Pfeil, MD; Noah S. Philip, MD; Steven P. Ringel, MD; Alan G. Robinson, MD; Sarah M. Roddy, MD; William M. Rogoway, MD; Shashikumar K. Salgar, PhD; Joseph W. Stubbs, MD; John Tooker, MD, MBA; Kenneth L. Tyler, MD; Alan G. Wasserman, MD; Gerald Weissmann, MD; John A. Zic, MD.

The recipients of the 2013 fellowships are:

Adil Akhtar
Class of 2013, University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Medicine
Assessing Accuracy in Staging in Stage I Non Small Cell Lung Carcinoma (NSCLC): Implications for the Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Patient
Mentor Renuka Malik, MD
Councilor John Foxworth, PharmD

Ali Alam
Class of 2016, Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine
The Role of Glioblastoma-derived Exosomes in Inducing the Tumor-Supportive M2 Macrophage
Mentor Amy Heimberger, MD
Councilor Mark L. Montgomery, MD

Christie Atchison
Class of 2016, USF Health Morsani College of Medicine
Risk factors for in-hospital venous thromboembolism in children
Mentor Neil Goldenberg, MD, PhD
Councilor Patricia J. Emmanuel, MD

David Ballard
Class of 2015, Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport
Drainage Catheter Design: From Whimsical to Research Proven
Mentor Horacio D'Agostino, MD
Councilor Jeffrey German, MD

Maureen Beederman
Class of 2014, University of Chicago Division of the Biological Sciences The Pritzker School of Medicine
Further Defining the Role of the RANK/RANKL/OPG Axis in Cranial Suture Biology and Criosynostosis
Mentors Russell Reid, MD; T.-C. He, MD
Councilor Adam Cifu, MD

Thomas Bemenderfer
Class of 2014, Indiana University School of Medicine
Novel Osseous Repair with Second-Generation Thrombopoietic Agents
Mentor Melissa Kacena, PhD
Councilor Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD

Danielle Bitterman
Class of 2016, New York University School of Medicine
Epigenetic reprogramming to restore chemosensitivity in cells under-expressing TBLR1 protein: A potential therapeutic target for refractory childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia
Mentor William L. Carroll, MD
Councilor Steven Abramson, MD

Hillary Braun
Class of 2016, University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine
Perceptions of Female Surgeons within Academic Medicine
Mentors Nancy L. Ascher, MD, PhD; Patricia O’Sullivan, MS, EdD
Councilor Sue Carlisle, MD

Jorien Breur
Class of 2014, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University
Evaluation of the feasibility of utilizing the Quantiferon-TB Gold test at an HIV comprehensive care clinic in La Romana, Dominican Republic
Mentors Philip LaRussa, MD; Magdalen Sobieszczyk, MD
Councilor Charles Nordin, MD
Margaret Brown  
Class of 2016, Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine  
Activity of HIF-1α and MMP-2 in Optic Nerve Head Astrocytes during Glaucoma-Related Hypoxic Injury  
Mentor Shahid Husain, PhD  
Councilor Christopher G. Pelic, MD

Virginia Bush  
Class of 2014, University of Louisville School of Medicine  
Study of cutaneous nerve density variation at key superficial anatomic landmarks  
Mentor Bradon Wilhelmi, MD  
Councilor Daniel Danzl, MD

Nicholas Caffes  
Class of 2016, University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Heme-induced chemokine expression and neutrophil recruitment in intracerebral hemorrhage  
Mentor J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD  
Councilors Yvette Rooks, MD; Donna Parker, MD; Gary D. Plotnick, MD

Janet Choi  
Class of 2015, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Long-term use of cochlear implant in older adults: Results from a large consecutive case series  
Mentor Frank Lin, MD, PhD  
Councilor Jon B. Morris, MD

Max Davis  
Class of 2016, University of Michigan Medical School  
Targeted inactivation of MMP-9 in connective tissue fibroblasts to improve the regeneration of rotator cuff tears  
Mentor Christopher L. Mendias, PhD  
Councilor Cyril M. Grum, MD

Jaden Evans  
Class of 2014, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine  
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Cardiac Isodose Distributions Associated with Focal 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography Uptake  
Mentor James Welsh, MD  
Councilor Lesley Motheral, MD

Charlene Fares  
Class of 2015, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California  
The Role of DNA Methylation in Tumor Maintenance  
Mentor Peter Laird, PhD  
Councilor Paul Holtom, MD

Ryan Gillihan  
Class of 2016, University of Kansas School of Medicine  
Exploring the Impact of Chronic Kidney Disease on Circulating Osteoblast Progenitor Cells  
Mentor Jason Stubbs, MD  
Councilor Steven Simpson, MD

Nancy Glober  
Class of 2014, The University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio  
Aquaporin 4 Expression in Astrocytes Subjected to an In Vitro Model for Ischemia  
Mentor Murat Dicigaylioglu, MD, PhD  
Councilor Erin Nelson, MD

Shubhi Goyal  
Class of 2016, University of Alabama School of Medicine  
Characterizing Symptoms and Suffering at the End-of-Life in Children with Neurological Conditions  
Mentor Christina K. Ullrich, MD, MPH  
Councilor Stephanie D. Reilly, MD

Lisa Hisaw  
Class of 2014, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine  
Interaction and Regulation of Ultraviolet B (UVB)-induced Cytokines in Human Keratinocytes  
Mentor Jenny Kim, MD, PhD  
Councilors Michael L. Berman, MD; Ranjan Gupta, MD

Yun Jenny Jiang  
Class of 2016, University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine  
Predictors of intraparenchymal hematoma enlargement after moderate-to-severe TBI  
Mentor Matthew Koenig, MD  
Councilor Jill Omori, MD

Karen Kagha  
Class of 2016, Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University  
The Regulation of Aquaporin 3 Expression  
Mentor Wendy Bollag, PhD  
Councilor Clarence Joe, DMD, MD, FACP

Daniel Katz  
Class of 2014, Northwestern University The Feinberg School of Medicine  
Phenomapping: Hierarchical Cluster Analysis of Phenotypic Data for the Categorization of Systemic Hypertension  
Mentor Sanjiv J. Shah, MD  
Councilor John P. Flaherty, MD

Kartik Kesavabhotla  
Class of 2014, Weill Cornell Medical College  
Intra-arterial chemotherapy with MR-guided ultrasound disruption of the blood-brain-barrier to target the glioma stem cell niche  
Mentor John A. Boockvar, MD  
Councilor O. Wayne Isom, MD

Fakhra Khalid  
Class of 2016, University of California, Davis, School of Medicine  
Wound Repair Optimization Using Stress Modulation of Mesenchymal Stem Cells  
Mentor Rivkah Isseroff, MD  
Councilor Regina Gandour-Edwards, MD

Young Lee  
Class of 2015, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine  
Preoperative Predictors of Complications, Hospital Length of Stay, and Total Cost of Care in Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery  
Mentor Robert J. Singer, MD  
Councilor John A. Zic, MD
Robert Lystrup  
Class of 2015, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences  
F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine  
Student Fitness: Pedometry as Incentive?  
Mentor Mark B. Stephens, MD  
Councilor Robert E. Goldstein, MD

Lauren Mamer  
Class of 2015, Ohio State University College of Medicine  
Glutamate Vesicle Filling and Release Probability  
Mentor Christian Rosenmund  
Councilor Sheryl Pfeil, MD

Heather Melville  
Class of 2015, Georgetown University School of Medicine  
Identifying molecular mechanisms of resistance to anti-EGFR therapies through comprehensive phosphoprotein analysis  
Mentor Michael Pishvaian, MD, PhD  
Michael Adams MD, FACP

Devin Patel  
Class of 2014, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Mapping Back and Lower Extremity Pain Relief with Percutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation Placement  
Mentor Mehul Desai, MD, MPH  
Councilor Alan G. Wasserman, MD

Ronak Patel  
Class of 2015, University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine  
The Function of Argininosuccinate Lyase in Osteoarthritis  
Mentor Brendan H. Lee, MD, PhD  
Councilor Lisa R. Farmer, MD

Shailee Patel  
Class of 2014, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine  
Predictive Biomarkers for Healing Outcome of Diabetic Foot Ulcers  
Mentor Marjana Tomic-Canic, PhD  
Councilor Carlos J. Mechaber, MD, FACP

Christopher Perrone  
Class of 2014, University of Massachusetts Medical School  
The role of multiple sclerosis as a risk factor for osteoporosis  
Mentor Carolina Ionete, MD, PhD  
Councilor David A. Drachman, MD

Marc Polacco  
Class of 2014, University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine  
The topological characteristics of micropatterned polymers determine ability to guide spiral ganglion neurite and Schwann cell growth  
Mentor Marlan Hansen, MD  
Councilor Christopher Cooper, MD

Elisa Quiroz  
Class of 2016, Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Role of Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres in Lymphoma  
Mentor Rodrigo T. Calado, MD, PhD  
Councilor Gabriel A. Martinez, MD

Kelsey Ripp  
Class of 2016, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University  
The effect of Praziquantel treatment of schistosome-infected pregnant women on maternal anemia risk and infant iron endowment  
Mentor Jennifer Friedman, MD, MPH, PhD  
Councilor Charlotte M. Boney, MD

Lindsey Roeker  
Class of 2014, Mayo Medical School  
Reconsidering the Definition of Plasma Cell Leukemia  
Mentor S. Vincent Rajkumar, MD  
Association chairs Carola Arndt, MD; Judith Kaur, MD; Barbara Westmoreland, MD

Ashwin Shinde  
Class of 2015, Drexel University College of Medicine  
Amelioration of Ionizing Irradiation Damage to the Oral Cavity/Oropharynx of Radioresistant Fanconi Anemia FancD2-/- Mice by GS-Nitroxide JP-039  
Mentor Joel Greenberger, MD Michael Epperly, PhD  
Councilor Allan R. Tunkel, MD, PhD, MACP

Sarah Siu  
Class of 2016, State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine  
Loss of Laminin γ3 Chain Affects Rates of Corneal Epithelial Cell Proliferation, Differentiation and Apoptosis  
Mentor William Brunken, PhD  
Councilor Douglas R. Lazzaro, MD, FACS, FAAR

John Squiers  
Class of 2016, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas Southwestern Medical School  
Predicting Operative Mortality in Endocarditis  
Mentor J. Michael DiMaio, MD  
Councilor Kevin Klein, MD

Leland Stillman  
Class of 2014, University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Allergic Disease in Neighbors of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations  
Mentor Larry Borish, MD  
Councilor Mark J. Mendelsohn, MD

Joshua Sumislawski  
Class of 2015, University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine  
Critical Administrative Thresholds: Redefining Massive Transfusion in Trauma  
Mentors Stephanie A. Savage, MD; Bel L. Zarzaur, MD, MPH  
Councilor Owen Phillips, MD

Sam Sun  
Class of 2016, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine  
Risk factors for the recurrence of atypical meningiomas  
Mentor Albert Kim, MD, PhD  
Councilor Morton E. Smith, MD

Daniel Talmasov  
Class of 2015, Stony Brook University School of Medicine  
Study of the radio-protective role of Kruppel-like Factor 4 following gamma-radiation induced gut injury  
Mentors Vincent Yang, MD, PhD; Amr Ghaleb, PhD  
Councilor Jack Fuhrer, MD

Corey Walker  
Class of 2014, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry  
Outcomes and Risk Factors of Pediatric Shunts at a Single Institution  
Mentor Howard Silberstein, MD  
Councilor Heidi B. Schwarz, MD
Deva Wells
Class of 2015, University of Washington School of Medicine
The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Survival from Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest
Mentor Thomas Rea, MD, MPH
Councilor Douglas S. Paauw, MD

Jacob Wilson
Class of 2016, Medical College of Wisconsin
Effects of MK-2206, a novel AKT inhibitor, on cholangiocarcinoma cells
Mentor T. Clark Gamblin, MD, MS
Councilor James L. Sebastian, MD

Stephen Xue
Class of 2016, Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans
Reversal of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor-induced endothelial dysfunction by Coenzyme Q
Mentor Tammy Dugas, PhD
Councilor Peter M. C. DeBlieux, MD

Peter H. Yang
Class of 2016, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Prediction of Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) Recurrences in Pediatric Populations Using Characteristics of Vessel Compactness and Presence of Deep Venous Drainage
Mentor Richard C. E. Anderson, MD
Councilor John C.M. Brust, MD

Huaiy Zhang
Class of 2014, University of Illinois College of Medicine
Role of T Lymphocytes in Atopic Dermatitis
Mentor Lawrence S. Chan, MD
Councilors Melvin Lopata, MD; Errol Baptist, MD

Rheanne Zimmerman
Class of 2015, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Gene Network Analysis in Childhood Cancer
Mentor Logan Spector, PhD
Councilor Charles Billington, MD

Samantha Zwiebel
Class of 2015, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Creation of a Biocompatible Scaffold Utilizing Growth Factors to Correct for Critical Size Defect in Rat Calvaria
Mentors Arun Gosain, MD; Davood Varghai, MD

2013 Helen H. Glaser Student Essay Awards

The thirty-first annual Alpha Omega Alpha Helen H. Glaser Student Essay Awards were made in April. This year's winners are:

First prize: Catherine Spaulding of the Class of 2014 at Georgetown University School of Medicine for her essay, “Dennett’s Echo.”

Second prize: Christopher Salib of the Class of 2016 at Meharry Medical College for his essay, “Words Beyond Death: Literary Form and Its Intentions in Paul Zweig’s Last Works.”

Third prize, tie: Stanley Gutinov of the Class of 2015 at Northwestern University The Feinberg School of Medicine for his essay, “‘Vital Amines,’ Purple Smoke: A Select History of Vitamins and Minerals” and YunZu Wang of the Class of 2013 at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine for her essay, “Yes, I Can: Learning to Cope with Death.”

Honorable mentions: Peter Daniel of the Class of 2014 at the Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University for his essay, “Wet Dust”; Felipe Fernandez del Castillo of the University of Massachusetts Medical School for his essay, “Healing, Harming, and Hippocrates: Physician-Assisted Suicide in Roman Medicine”; and Matthew Molloy of the Class of 2014 at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for his essay, “Food Fight.”

Winning essays will be published in future issues of The Pharos.

2013 Pharos Poetry Competition winners

The Pharos Poetry Competition awards were made in April. This year’s winners are:

First prize: Corinna Iacopetti of the Class of 2014 at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine for her poem, “Initiation.”

Second prize: Kate Linetzky of the Class of 2015 at Georgetown University School of Medicine for her poem, “what i said.”

Third prize: Anna Vollstedt of the Class of 2015 at the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine for her poem, “Transcription.”

Honorable mention: Alexander Fortenko of the Class of 2015 at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences for his poem, “Negatives.”

Winning poems will be published in issues of The Pharos.