



Washington Research

F O U N D A T I O N

WRF Announces 10 Inaugural Washington Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellows

Foundation will support STEM researchers working in crucial areas of public need at four of state's top institutions

SEATTLE, WA—April 12, 2018

The inaugural group of 10 Washington Research Foundation (WRF) Postdoctoral Fellows has been selected. WRF will support the Fellows, all with recent doctorates, to carry out mentored research projects addressing some of the biggest challenges facing the public in areas including healthcare, climatology and engineering.

The following researchers begin their three-year Fellowships throughout 2018:

- Connor Bischak holds a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley and will be developing biological-electronic interfaces for medical applications at the University of Washington (UW)
- Matthew Crane received a doctorate in chemical engineering from UW and will be developing new methods to construct devices for emerging quantum applications including computing and sensing, also at the University of Washington
- Jesse Erasmus holds a doctorate in virology and vaccine development from The University of Texas Medical Branch and will be applying current and future understanding of RNA virus replication to engineer self-amplifying RNA molecules for therapeutic uses at Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI)
- Max Friedfeld received a doctorate in chemistry from Princeton and will be developing nontoxic high-performance nanomaterials at UW for use in medical and consumer devices
- Kameron Harris holds a doctorate in applied mathematics from the University of Washington and will focus his neuroscience research on expanding our understanding of brain wiring and activity with machine learning techniques, also at UW
- Luke Parsons received a doctorate in geosciences from The University of Arizona and will use climate model, paleoclimate and instrumental data to study the sources and impacts of climate variability at UW
- Daniel Reeves holds a doctorate in physics from Dartmouth College and will apply mathematical models of viral evolution and dynamics to progress HIV cures at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- Mary Regier received a doctorate in biomedical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and will be developing technologies at the University of Washington to define and understand cell-fate patterning for healthcare applications
- Ian Richardson holds a doctorate in material science and engineering from Washington State University (WSU) and will be advancing liquid hydrogen fuel tank technologies to increase the endurance and usability of electric-powered drones, also at WSU
- Emma Schmidgall received a doctorate in physics from Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and will be working on integrated photonic devices for quantum information processing at UW to establish a photonics "toolkit" that can be broadly used in scalable device manufacturing

David Galas, Ph.D., principal scientist at the Pacific Northwest Research Institute (PNRI) in Seattle and a WRF board member since 2010, chaired the external [committee](#) that screened, interviewed and selected the Fellows.

"We are delighted with this very first cohort of WRF Postdoctoral Fellows. They were selected from a highly competitive pool of candidates from multiple disciplines. The Fellows very ably presented their visionary approaches to scientific advances addressing key societal needs. In the short term, four of our state's top research institutions will benefit from the ambitious work they're undertaking. In the long term, we expect that the impact of these young people will be much greater," said Galas.

Ron Howell, WRF's CEO, said, "We're thankful to David and the committee for their hard work, and very pleased with their selection of these excellent young scientists. Fred Hutch, IDRI, UW and WSU conduct world-class research and have been important partners of ours for many years. We're confident that the Fellows will be well supported in learning how to most effectively provide public benefit through their work."

Jesse Erasmus, whose vaccine-development work at Seattle's IDRI aims to make the treatment and prevention of diseases more effective and affordable, said, "With this crucial support from WRF, I have an invaluable opportunity to translate my ideas and complement IDRI's mission of applying cutting-edge approaches towards reducing the worldwide burden of infectious diseases."

Profiles of the Washington Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellows and their projects will be added to WRF's [website](#) as their Fellowships begin. The next application period will open on May 21, 2018.

About Washington Research Foundation:

Washington Research Foundation (WRF) supports research and scholarship in Washington state, focusing on life sciences and enabling technologies.

WRF was formed in 1981 to assist universities and other nonprofit research institutions in Washington state with the commercialization and licensing of their technologies. WRF is recognized as one of the foremost technology transfer and grant-making organizations in the nation, having earned more than \$440 million in licensing revenue for the University of Washington and providing over \$81 million in grants to the state's research institutions to date.

WRF Capital, the Foundation's venture investment arm, has funded 91 local startups since 1994. Proceeds support WRF's grant programs.

For additional information, please visit www.wrfseattle.org.

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