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***Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program***

**Announces 2014 Scholar Cohort**

***Prestigious Program Awards Its First Scholars in Dentistry***

The *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program* of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) announced today the 12 scholars who have been selected as its 2014 cohort.

Among the 12, two scholars have received awards to conduct dental research: Azeez Butali, DDS, PhD, assistant professor at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, and Cristiane Squarize, DDS, MS, PhD, assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. Butali and Squarize are the first dental scholars to participate in the *Harold Amos* *Program.* Butali’s award will facilitate research titled “Genome-wide studies for non-syndromic clefts in sub-Saharan African populations,” and Squarize’s will enable continued research on oral cancer stem cells.

The *Harold Amos Program* was created in 1983 by RWJF to increase the number of faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who can achieve senior rank in academic medicine or dentistry, and who will encourage and foster the development of succeeding classes of such physicians and dentists. The program defines the term “historically disadvantaged” to mean challenges facing individuals because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other similar factors.

The program was renamed and expanded in 2004 in honor of Harold Amos, PhD, who was the first black to chair a department, now the Department of Microbiology and Medical Genetics, of the Harvard Medical School. The program was further expanded in 2012 to include dental medicine. Program alumni have received hundreds of awards and honors, including the MacArthur Fellowship “Genius” award. Many alumni have become influential leaders in the health care field; for example, three alumni are directors at the National Institutes of Health, and 10 have been elected to the Institute of Medicine.

The *Harold Amos* *Program* offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to participating scholars. Each scholar receives an annual stipend up to $75,000, complemented by a $30,000 annual grant toward support of research activities. Each scholar studies and conducts research in association with a senior faculty member located at an academic medical center or dental school noted for the training of young faculty.

“The *Harold Amos* *Program* has always attracted some of the nation’s finest medical faculty, who inspire the succeeding classes of physicians and dentists they are mentoring,” said David M. Krol, MD, MPH, FAAP, senior program officer at RWJF. “The scholars’ unflagging commitment to fostering the development of young medical and dental students keeps this program strong.”

The other members of the 2014 scholar cohort, their home institutions, and the research projects to be conducted during their time in the program are as follows:

**Richelle Charles, MD** –Massachusetts General Hospital; The study of T-cell immune response induced by the oral cholera vaccine Shanchol in Haiti

**Jose Herazo-Maya, MD** – Yale University; Peripheral blood biomarkers in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis—the role of aberrant immunity

**Tiffani Johnson, MD** – University of Pennsylvania; Understanding sources of racial/ethnic variation in pediatric trauma care and outcomes

**Frederick Korley, MD, PhD** – Johns Hopkins University; Identifying candidates for expedited discharge among patients evaluated for suspected acute coronary syndrome

**Joseph Ladapo, MD, PhD** – New York University; A randomized comparative effectiveness trial of financial incentives versus usual care for smokers hospitalized in the Veterans Affairs hospital system

**Xilma Ortiz-Gonzalez, MD, PhD** – University of Pennsylvania; Modeling mitochondrial disease using induced pluripotent stem cells

**Carolyn Rodriguez, MD, PhD** – Stanford University; Neural mechanisms underlying fast-onset obsessive-compulsive disorder treatment across molecules, physiology, and circuits

**Sakima Smith, MD** – Ohio State University; The role of ankyrin-B and beta2-spectrin in heart failure and arrhythmia

In 2006, as part of a minority recruitment initiative, the American Society of Hematology (ASH) began partnering with the program. Each year ASH funds at least one additional scholar—a hematologist from an historically disadvantaged background who is committed to research. For the 2014 cohort, ASH will fund these two scholars:

**Jacqueline Barrientos, MD** – Hofstra North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System School of Medicine; Exploring the use of targeted agents for the treatment of Richter’s transformation

**Johnnie Orozco, MD, PhD** – Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Improving haploidentical bone marrow transplantation with alpha radioimmunotherapy

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*The* Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program*, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), works to increase the number of faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who can achieve senior rank in academic medicine or dentistry, and who will encourage and foster the development of succeeding classes of such physicians and dentists. For more information, visit* [*www.amfdp.org*](http://www.amfdp.org)*.*

*For more than 40 years, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve the health and health care of all Americans. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all Americans to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit* [*www.rwjf.org*](http://www.rwjf.org/)*. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at* [*www.rwjf.org/twitter*](http://www.rwjf.org/twitter) *or on Facebook at* [*www.rwjf.org/facebook*](http://www.rwjf.org/facebook)*.*