

For Immediate Release

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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER CONGCONG HE RECEIVES \$100,000 2017 NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Evanston, IL- The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) has awarded **Congcong He, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Northwestern University, with a 2017 New Investigator Award in Alzheimer's Disease.

The program is funded by The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, and now in its eleventh year, the program provides three early-career researchers with up to \$100,000 each to conduct scientific investigations leading to improved methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. To date, the program has supported 52 Investigators at 38 institutions in the U.S. and Israel.

With the \$100,000 New Investigator Award, Dr. He's research will investigate the role of Becn2 in modulation of cannabinoid signaling and Alzheimer's disease.

"AFAR is appreciative of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation for its continued commitment to finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease," says Stephanie Lederman, Ed.M, AFAR Executive Director. "Partnerships like these ensure that the best young scientists and most promising research towards eradicating Alzheimer's disease are supported."

"The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation is committed to nurturing talented researchers to ensure the brainpower needed to fuel future progress in Alzheimer's disease research," says Martin H. Blank, Jr., Trustee of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation. "Even if we can make modest advances in preventing Alzheimer's disease or delay its progression, this could have a huge global public health impact."



On receiving the New Investigator Award, Dr. He states: "It is an honor to join the community of New Investigators generously supported by AFAR and The Gilbert Foundation. My team is committed to understanding the role of autophagy, a cellular degradation pathway, in the progression of Alzheimer's disease, and how to manipulate autophagy to prevent cognitive deficits in the disease. The funding and networking this award provides are no doubt critical for my lab to pursue these complex questions and to strengthen the foundation of our research."

"More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and by 2050, this number could more triple," notes Lederman. "The New Investigator Awards help bring closer to reality therapeutics to treat Alzheimer's and related dementias. AFAR is proud to partner with The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation to encourage talented early career researchers to find a cure for this devastating disease."

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About AFAR The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine. To address the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the science of healthier aging, AFAR funds physicians and scientists probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations at critical points throughout their careers. Learn at www.afar.org or follow AFARorg on Twitter and Facebook.

About The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation The mission of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation is to invest in programs that promote education, tolerance, social services, healthcare, and the arts. The Foundation builds on the ideals and pursuits of its founders, Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert. In the area of Alzheimer's disease, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation focuses its grant-making on advancing research by early career investigators in the United States and Israel and investments in Alzheimer's disease caregiving. For more information, please visit www.thegilbertfoundation.org.



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