

For Immediate Release

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**HARVARD RESEARCHER DR. WILLIAM MAIR RECEIVES
GLENN FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
BREAKTHROUGHS IN GERONTOLOGY (BIG) AWARD**

BOSTON, MA--William Mair, Ph.D. of Harvard University has been awarded a two-year, \$200,000 Glenn Foundation for Medical Research Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG) Award. The award provides \$200,000 for research aimed at discoveries to address human aging and healthspan.



Dr. Mair is an Associate Professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

With the support of the BIG Award, Dr. Mair will be studying a process called “Alternative RNA splicing”, or how dysfunction of the RNA-processing machinery can drive the aging process and cause disease and how mechanisms such as dietary restriction, that can slow aging, do so in part by maintaining splicing fidelity.

On receiving the award, Dr. Mair shares: “AFAR has supported me and so many of my peers throughout our careers as we try and understand the mechanisms that link old age to disease risk. This AFAR BIG award is particularly timely for my group, as it will allow us to develop a new area of research for us – the links between RNA splicing and aging – and test whether observations we have made in invertebrate systems are conserved in mammals and might be exploited to reduce human disease risk. “

“Our aim is to support research that leads to a greater understanding of biological aging that will contribute to the development of treatments or preventive measures that extend human healthspan,” notes Mark R. Collins, President of The Glenn Foundation for Medical Research.

Since 2005, the Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG) Awards have provided more than \$5,800,000 to 30 investigators nationwide. Awardees are selected by a committee of distinguished scientists working in the field of aging research.

“We are pleased to collaborate with The Glenn Foundation for Medical Research to translate the knowledge in the basic biology of aging into therapies and interventions that will help us all live healthier and longer as we grow older,” notes Stephanie Lederman, Ed.M., Executive Director, AFAR.

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About the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research Founded by Paul F. Glenn in 1965, the mission of the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research is to extend the healthy years of life through research on mechanisms of biology that govern normal human aging and its related physiological decline, with the objective of translating research into interventions that will extend healthspan with lifespan. Learn more at glennfoundation.org.

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 more at afar.org or follow AFAR.org on Twitter and Facebook.