

Scientific Council Dinner

Presenting the Klerman & Freedman Awards

Friday, July 24, 2026



Awarding **NARSAD** Grants

Welcome to the Scientific Council Dinner, where we will present the 2026 Klerman & Freedman Awards.

The Klerman & Freedman Awards recognize exceptional clinical and basic research conducted by Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Young Investigator Grantees. The prize winners are selected by committees of the Foundation's Scientific Council.

The BBRF Scientific Council reviews and selects the most promising research ideas with the greatest potential to lead to further breakthroughs in brain and behavior research. We thank our Council for their time, expertise, and judgement to support the mission of the Foundation.

Tonight, we will recognize and honor the exceptional work of six outstanding young researchers. BBRF's Young Investigator Grant program supports early-career scientists as they gather pilot data and "proof of concept" for their innovative clinical and basic research.

BBRF continues to support the most promising ideas in brain research across disciplines, institutions, and continents. We hope that as you learn about the achievements of this evening's honorees, they will inspire your continued support of BBRF's vision of a future in which all people living with a psychiatric condition lead full, productive, and happy lives.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Borenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Borenstein" clearly legible.

Jeffrey Borenstein, M.D.
President & CEO

2026 KLERMAN PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH

Joline M. Fan, M.D., M.S.
University of California, San Francisco

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Erica Berlin Baller, M.D., M.S.
University of Pennsylvania

Nili Solomonov, Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medicine

2026 FREEDMAN PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL BASIC RESEARCH

Vineet Augustine, Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Xiaoting Wu, Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Wendy Xin, Ph.D.
*University Health Network
University of Toronto*

About the Prizes

The Klerman & Freedman Prizes pay tribute to Drs. Gerald L. Klerman and Daniel X. Freedman, whose legacies as researchers, teachers, physicians and administrators have indelibly influenced neuropsychiatry. Their outstanding contributions to the field of brain and behavior research continue to inspire scientists who knew them, as well as those who are just entering the field.

KLERMAN Prizewinners

1995	Dr. Rajiv Tandon
1996	Dr. Hans C. Brieter
1997	Dr. Schahram Akbarian
1998	Dr. Michael Maes
1999	Dr. Andrew L. Stoll
2000	Dr. Susan K. Schultz
2001	Dr. Cameron S. Carter Dr. Josephy R. Hibbeln Dr. Sarah H. Lisanby Dr. Perry F. Renshaw
2002	Dr. E. Sherwood Brown Dr. John W. Newcomer
2003	Dr. Ramin Mojtabai
2004	Dr. Helen Link Egger Dr. Joan L. Luby
2005	Dr. Melissa P. DelBello
2006	Dr. Hilary P. Blumberg
2007	Dr. Beng-Choon Ho
2008	Dr. Gabriel Alejandro de Erausquin
2009	Dr. Alina Suris
2010	Dr. Daniel P. Dickstein Dr. Mani N. Pavuluri
2011	Dr. Chadi Calarge
2012	Dr. Jess G. Fiedorowicz
2013	Dr. James McPartland
2014	Dr. Denis Jabaudon
2015	Dr. Alan Anticevic
2016	Dr. Katie McLaughlin
2017	Dr. Jennifer C. Felger
2018	Dr. Albert R. Powers III
2019	Dr. Nolan R. Williams
2020	Dr. Ellen Lee
2021	Dr. Nicholas L. Balderston
2022	Dr. Shan H. Siddiqi
2023	Dr. Danella M. Hafeman
2024	Dr. Juliet Beni Edgcomb
2025	Dr. Joseph J. Taylor

KLERMAN Honorable Mentions

1995	Dr. Elizabeth D. Abercrombie Dr. Kim T. Mueser Dr. Jose V. Pardo
1996	Dr. Steven E. Arnold Dr. Helen S. Mayberg
1997	Dr. Andrew J. Francis Dr. Katharine A. Phillips
1998	Dr. Cameron S. Carter Dr. Mark R. Serper
1999	Dr. Shitij Kapur Dr. Brian F. O'Donnell
2000	Dr. Mark S. George Dr. Sohee Park
2002	Dr. Stephan Heckers Dr. Anissa Abi Dargham Dr. Jeffrey H. Meyer Dr. Yvette I. Sheline
2003	Dr. Catherine Monk Dr. Gerard Sanacora
2005	Dr. Anne L. Glowinski Dr. Gerard Sanacora
2006	Dr. Stephan Eliez Dr. Jordan W. Smoller
2007	Dr. Yuval Y. Neria Dr. Carolyn M. Salafia
2011	Dr. Brian M. D'Onofrio Dr. Jennifer S. Silk
2012	Dr. Johanne Renaud Dr. Manpreet Kaur Singh
2013	Dr. Daniel Mueller Dr. Andrea Danese
2014	Dr. Mazen A. Kheirbek Dr. Bo Li
2015	Dr. Chadi Abdallah Dr. Carrie J. McAdams
2016	Dr. Erin C. Dunn Dr. Avram Holmes
2017	Dr. Danai Dima Dr. Carolyn Rodriguez
2018	Dr. Timothy Y. Mariano
2019	Dr. Bo Cao Dr. Sarah A. O. Gray
2020	Dr. Soonjo Hwang Dr. Hadar Ben-Yoav
2021	Dr. Hengyi Cao Dr. Nolan R. Williams
2022	Dr. Rachel Emma Lean Dr. Sunny Xiaojing Tang
2023	Dr. Linden Parkes
2024	Dr. Elizabeth V. Goldfarb
2025	Dr. Ryan Thomas Ash Dr. Nathaniel G. Harnett

KLERMAN PRIZE

The Klerman Prize, established in 1994 by Myrna M. Weissman, Ph.D., in memory of her late husband, Gerald L. Klerman, M.D., honors exceptional clinical research by a BBRF Young Investigator Grantee. A distinguished psychiatric researcher and mentor at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Dr. Klerman pioneered studies of psychotropic medications and developed and tested interpersonal psychotherapy. Dr. Weissman serves on the BBRF Scientific Council.

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Responsible for selecting the Freedman Prizewinners, the following BBRF Scientific Council members make up the Selection Committee:

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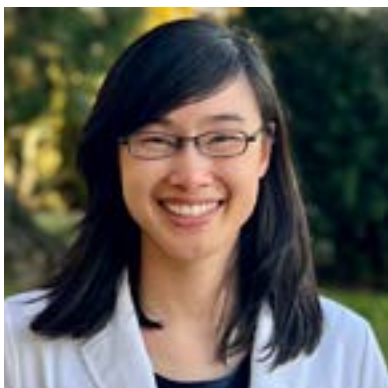
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Diego Pizzagalli, Ph.D.

David Silbersweig, M.D.

2026 KLERMAN PRIZEWINNER

FOR EXCEPTIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH



Joline M. Fan, M.D.

*University of California,
San Francisco*

2022 BBRF Young Investigator

Dr. Fan's research focuses on understanding overlapping brain circuitry underlying mood, sleep, and epilepsy, and on advancing personalized neuromodulation strategies for psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Her work investigates how deep-brain networks regulate mood, arousal, and pathological excitability. Utilizing intracranial recordings from an ongoing clinical trial at UCSF involving individuals with treatment-resistant depression, Dr. Fan has demonstrated that corticolimbic and arousal networks are interconnected and that targeted stimulation of these circuits can modulate both mood and wakefulness. Her studies have helped identify neural biomarkers that may guide more personalized therapeutic interventions. More recently, she has advanced the use of low-intensity focused ultrasound as a non-invasive tool for stimulation mapping and modulation of deep brain networks involved in mood and related symptoms.

"The Klerman Prize is deeply meaningful to me because it recognizes work we are doing to understand brain circuits underlying mood and sleep and to translate these findings to personalized neuromodulation therapies. I am deeply honored and humbled to acknowledge that these types of efforts require a huge team of support, including from mentors, collaborators, and patients."

2026 KLERMAN PRIZE

HONORABLE MENTION



Erica Berlin Baller, M.D.

University of Pennsylvania

2023 BBRF Young Investigator

Dr. Baller cares for hospitalized individuals with both medical and psychiatric disorders and leads a research program that uses multiple sclerosis as a model to understand how white matter disease in the brain contributes to mood, anxiety, and cognitive disorders. To do this, she combines advanced brain imaging, medical record research, and targeted clinical patient evaluations to map how injury location and burden relate to symptom profiles and clinical trajectories. Her work aims to enable early, targeted treatment for the general psychiatric population, as well as patients most vulnerable to psychiatric complications of neurological diseases.

"Consultation-liaison psychiatry sits at a complicated intersection—close to patients, but historically distant from basic and translational science that drives the field forward. When I committed to a research program anchored in the psychiatric care of medically ill patients, it felt like a risk. This recognition means so much to me because it affirms that rigorous, translational approaches to the psychiatry of medical illness are not only feasible but valued."

2026 KLERMAN PRIZE

HONORABLE MENTION



Nili Solomonov, Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medicine

2023 BBRF Young Investigator

Dr. Solomonov focuses on developing scalable, neuroscience-informed psychotherapies for depression. She applies computational modeling, artificial intelligence, and neuroimaging to identify mechanisms of treatment response and design targeted interventions. Her lab conducts clinical studies in mid- and late-life depression, suicidality, and postpartum depression, leveraging multimodal longitudinal data to uncover illness heterogeneity. A central focus of her work is social reward processing as a mechanism of action, which has informed the development of interventions such as Engage & Connect and machine learning-based approaches for precision treatment assignment. Her program emphasizes translation of scientific insights into scalable interventions, delivered to underserved populations in community settings.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Klerman Prize Honorable Mention. BBRF's early support was instrumental in launching my independent research program. I am humbled to be part of the community of accomplished, innovative, and inspiring BBRF-supported scientists."

FREEDMAN Prizewinners

1998	Dr. Yukiko Goto
1999	Dr. Stewart A. Anderson
2000	Dr. Edwin G. Abel
2001	Dr. Kelsey C. Martin
2002	Dr. Jon R. Backstrom
2003	Dr. Jose A. Esteban
2004	Dr. Luca Santarelli
2005	Dr. Lisa M. Monteggia
2006	Dr. Michael D. Ehlers
2007	Dr. Thomas A. Blanpied
2008	Dr. Evelyn K. Lambe
2009	Dr. Kerry J. Ressler
2010	Dr. David A. Baker
2011	Dr. Alexandre Bonnin
2012	Dr. Zhiping Pang
2013	Dr. Garret Stuber
2014	Dr. Theodore D. Satterthwaite
2015	Dr. Michael M. Halassa
2016	Dr. Kay Tye
2017	Dr. Ilana Witten
2018	Dr. Byungkook Lim
2019	Dr. Anna Victoria Molofsky
2020	Dr. Cody A. Siciliano
2021	Dr. Meaghan Creed
2022	Dr. Antonio Fernandez-Ruiz
2023	Dr. Ritchie Chen
2024	Dr. Christina K. Kim
2025	Dr. Long Li

FREEDMAN Honorable Mentions

1998	Dr. Eric E. Turner Dr. Elizabeth Van Bockstaele
1999	Dr. Emmanuel N. Pothos Dr. Laurence H. Tecott
2000	Dr. Wayne Drevets Dr. Bernice E. Morrow
2001	Dr. Michael J. Caterina Dr. Aurelio A. Galli
2002	Dr. Michael W. Quick Dr. Fu-Ming Zhou
2003	Dr. William A. Carlezon Dr. Gleb P. Shumyatsky
2004	Dr. Michael D. Ehlers Dr. Sheena Ann Josselyn
2005	Dr. Steven A. Thomas Dr. Fang Liu
2006	Dr. Stewart A. Anderson Dr. Gabriella D' Arcangelo Dr. Karoly Mirnics
2007	Dr. Fang Liu Dr. Luca Santarelli
2008	Dr. M. Margarita Behrens Dr. Akira Sawa
2009	Dr. Jean-Martin Beaulieu Dr. Colleen Ann McClung
2010	Dr. Vincent P. Ferrera Dr. Benjamin Philpot
2011	Dr. Alberto Bacci Dr. Andrew A. Pieper
2012	Dr. Marie Carlen Dr. Genevieve Konopka
2013	Dr. Carmen Andreescu Dr. David Foster Dr. Hiroki Taniguchi
2014	Dr. Elena Ivleva Dr. Aristotle N. Voineskos
2015	Dr. Kristen J. Brennand Dr. Nandakumar Narayanan
2016	Dr. Conor Liston Dr. Margaret Cho
2017	Dr. Marcelo de Oliveira Dietrich Dr. Elise B. Robinson
2018	Dr. Christina Gremel Dr. Ueli Rutishauser
2019	Dr. Erin S. Calipari Dr. Dorothy Schaffer
2020	Dr. Kevin Beier Dr. Lorna A. Farrelly
2021	Dr. Denise Cai Dr. Tomasz J. Nowakowski
2022	Dr. Chandramouli Chandrasekaran Dr. Mohsen Jamali
2023	Dr. Madeline Andrews Dr. Neir Eshel
2024	Dr. Erin Gibson Dr. Hugo A. Tejeda
2025	Dr. Hermany Munguba Dr. Zachary Pennington

FREEDMAN PRIZE

The Freedman Prize honors the late Daniel X. Freedman, M.D., a pioneer in biological psychiatry and psychopharmacology and a founding member of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Scientific Council. It is awarded to a BBRF Young Investigator Grantee for exceptional basic research.

FREEDMAN PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Responsible for selecting the Klerman Prizewinners, the following BBRF Scientific Council members make up the Selection Committee:

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Keri Martinowich, Ph.D.

Colleen McClung, Ph.D.

Bitá Moghaddam, Ph.D.

2026 FREEDMAN PRIZEWINNER

FOR EXCEPTIONAL BASIC RESEARCH



Vineet Augustine, Ph.D.

University of California, San Diego

2023 BBRF Young Investigator

Dr. Augustine's laboratory studies how signals from the body's internal organs are sensed, transmitted to the brain, and translated into physiological responses and behavioral states. His central focus is cardioception, the neural encoding and central representation of cardiac signals, a research domain his laboratory has helped to establish and define. His team asks a fundamental question: does the heart actively shape how the brain works, or is it merely regulated by the brain? His most recent work demonstrates that myocardial infarction (heart attack) is not a condition confined to the heart but a distributed neurobiological disorder orchestrated by a defined three-node circuit linking specialized pain-sensing neurons in the vagus nerve, hypothalamic brain circuits, and sympathetic ganglia in the neck, and it actively drives disease progression after a heart attack. When any node of this circuit is blocked, heart damage is substantially reduced, electrical stability is restored, and cardiac function improves. This work opens new avenues for circuit-based therapeutics targeting heart disease through the nervous system.

"Receiving the Freedman Prize is a profound honor. To be recognized by BBRF for research that started with a simple question and grew into a new exciting area is something I will carry with me throughout my career. I am deeply grateful to BBRF and to the scientific community that has supported this work."

2026 FREEDMAN PRIZE

HONORABLE MENTION



Xiaoting Wu, Ph.D.

*Icahn School of Medicine at
Mount Sinai*

2023 BBRF Young Investigator

Dr. Wu's research aims to understand how neural circuits and brain activity support social cognition in both health and disease. Her lab focuses on social memory, social decision-making, and related aspects of social behavior, with a particular interest in how molecules and neuromodulators shape the function of brain circuits. To achieve this, her lab combines cellular, circuit, and systems-level approaches to map how the composition of neural circuits gives rise to brain activity and subsequently social behavior. Dr. Wu hopes to use these insights to advance the development of therapies for the social deficits common in autism, schizophrenia, and mood disorders.

"Receiving the Freedman Prize Honorable Mention is a deeply meaningful recognition of my lab's work. This acknowledgment motivates us to keep pushing forward in our efforts to understand the neural basis of social cognition, and to move closer to our ultimate goal of improving treatments for mental health disorders."

2026 FREEDMAN PRIZE

HONORABLE MENTION



Wendy Xin, Ph.D.

*University Health Network
University of Toronto*

2023 BBRF Young Investigator

Dr. Xin studies how neurons interact with oligodendrocytes, the cells that make myelin in the central nervous system. Disruptions in myelin lead to significant motor and cognitive impairment and are also linked to a range of neurodevelopmental and psychiatric conditions, including schizophrenia, autism spectrum disorders, and mood disorders. Dr. Xin is exploring how oligodendrocytes and myelin influence brain development, activity, and plasticity. Her work aims to deepen our fundamental understanding of the brain and pave the way for new therapeutic approaches targeting myelination to treat neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders.

"I'm deeply honored to receive the Freedman Prize Honorable Mention just as I launch into my independent career. This recognition is incredibly affirming and strengthens my commitment to uncovering how myelin contributes to neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders."

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35+
years

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70k+
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\$476M
awarded

Since 1987 the Foundation has awarded more than \$475 million to fund more than 6,800 grants.

5,700
researchers

Grants have been given to more than 5,700 leading scientists around the world.