



Storm Cat Award Recipients

The Storm Cat Career Development Award is designed to introduce young researchers to equine sciences. The program has established itself as an elite incubator for young minds with novel ideas and unique approaches for advancing equine health. The Award is named in honor of the famous Thoroughbred stallion at Overbrook Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. Mrs. Lucy Young Hamilton, whose family owns Overbrook, is a member of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation's board of directors, and benefactor of the Award. The awards began in 2006 and continues through the support of Mrs. Hamilton.

2006

Dr. Jonathan Cheetham
Cornell University

He received his PhD at Cornell in 2008 where he is an Assistant Professor of large animal surgery and continues his research dealing with the upper respiratory tract. Dr. Cheetham received a grant from Grayson in 2011 as the Principal Investigator (PI) on a study addressing laryngeal neuropathy and is currently on the Grayson research advisory committee.



Dr. Martin Vidal
Louisiana State University

Received his PhD in 2009 from LSU and moved to UC-Davis where he did research in somatic stem cells. Dr. Vidal received a grant from Grayson in 2010 for a stem cell research project. He is now in private practice.

2007

Dr. Christianne Magee
Colorado State University

Received her PhD from Colorado State University and maintains the "Magee Laboratory", an active research facility where she studies the role of kisspeptin in the horse and collaborates with others to study several aspects of neuroendocrinology, including a Grayson funded project in 2017.



Dr. Melissa King
Colorado State University

Received her PhD from Colorado State University and worked as the assistant professor in the Gait and Equine Sports Medicine Department of the CSU orthopedic research lab.

2008

Dr. Catherine Radcliff Hackett
Cornell University

Received her PhD from Cornell and worked in the stem cell research lab of Dr. Lisa Fortier for 2 years before establishing a referral and consultation practice.





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2011

Dr. Kyla Ortved
Cornell University

Received her PhD from Cornell in 2014 and worked in orthopedic surgery and research. Dr. Ortved currently works in the "Ortved lab" at the University of Pennsylvania in gene research and orthopedics and received funding from Grayson on her Robotic project in 2019.



Dr. Alice Stack
Michigan State University

Received her PhD from Michigan State University in 2014 and served as a research associate in EIPH research with Dr. Fred Derksen in the Robinson Respiratory Lab. Currently works as a consultant.

2012

Dr. Brandy Burgess
Colorado State University

Received her PhD from Colorado State University in 2014. Dr. Burgess currently works as an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Infection Control Director at University of Georgia. In 2019 she submitted a project for funding consideration as the Principal Investigator.



2013

Erin McConnachie Beasley
University of Georgia

Received her PhD from University of Georgia in 2014. She is now a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia.

2013



Daniel Youngstrom
Virginia Tech

Received a Fullbright Fellowship and spent a year in Latvia studying crossover stem cell research human/equine. Currently working in the lab with Dr. Kurt Hankenson at Michigan State University which focuses on translational research affecting animal and human orthopedics.



2013

Katarzyna Dembeck
The Ohio State University

After finishing her PhD under Dr. Ramiro Toribio, Dr. Dembeck began researching critically ill foals and steroid / neurosteroid dynamics as co-PI on a grant funded by Grayson in 2015. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Iowa State University.

2014





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2014

Brad Nelson

Colorado State University

Completed his PhD studies as a clinician in the Orthopedic Research Center at Colorado State University. He is an Assistant Professor at CSU and a co-investigator with Dr. Chris Kawcak on a project funded by Grayson.



Heidi Reesink

Cornell University

Completed her PhD studies at Cornell in stem cell therapies under Dr. Alan Nixon. The “Reesink Laboratory” at Cornell University is researching pathophysiology, epidemiology and treatment of orthopedic disease—osteoarthritis and fracture.

[*View Dr. Reesink's video about the importance of research.*](#)

2015

Aimee Colbath

Colorado State University

Completed her PhD at Colorado State University. She is the Co-Investigator with Dr. Laurie Goodrich at CSU to develop allogeneic stem cells that can be used in any horse without fear of rejection. This project is funded by Grayson.



Elaine Norton

University of Minnesota

After completing her PhD on Comparative and Molecular Biosciences, at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Norton continues her career at University of Minnesota at the Leatherdale Equine Center.

2017

Shavahn C. Loux

University of Kentucky

Dr. Loux is a Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar at Gluck Equine Center, at UK with Dr. Barry Ball on in reproductive health on a project using MicroRNAs as markers of placental health in the mare.



Stephanie Bond

University of Calgary

Bond earned a veterinary degree in 2013, and is working on her PhD under the supervision of Dr. Renaud Léguillette, associate professor and Calgary Chair in Equine Sports Medicine. The project researches respiratory function in racehorses.

2018



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Holly Stewart

Colorado State University

She is currently working with Dr. Chris E. Kawcak, Professor and Director of Equine Clinical Services at CSU. Her project was “Optimization of dual-energy CT for equine imaging.”



Lynn Pezzanite

Colorado State University

Now a researcher at CSU, her Storm Cat project was “Antimicrobial and immunomodulatory properties of TLR ligand activated mesenchymal stem cells,” with Dr. Laurie Goodrich, Professor Equine Surgery at CSU.



Sherry Johnson

Colorado State University

She is currently working with Dr. Melissa King, (the 2009 Storm Cat Award recipient) and Assistant Professor of Equine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation at CSU, on the project “Validation of Blood Flow Restriction Training in Horses.”



Callum G Donnelly

University of California-Davis

Currently working on the project, “Proteomic investigation of equine spinal ataxia,” with Dr. Carrie Finno, Associate Professor of Veterinary Genetics.



Rosemary Bayless

North Carolina State University

Dr. Bayless is working with Dr. M. Katie Sheats, Assistant Professor of Equine Primary Care on the project, “Cell-Free DNA as a Biomarker in Equine Colic Patients.”



Sarah K. Shaffer

University of California-Davis

Dr. Shaffer post-doctoral work consists of the following three projects; all are related to racehorse stress fractures, including the project, “Linking Training to Stress-Reactions in Racehorse Bones,” with faculty supervisor Dr. Susan Stover, Professor SVM.





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Shun “Shune” Kimura
University of Georgia

Dr. Kimura is working on “Metabolic Responses In Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS) Impact Disease Severity, and Determine If Metformin Has Beneficial Anti-Inflammatory And Metabolic Effects In Equine SIRS, “ with faculty supervisor Dr. Kelsey Hart, Associate Professor and Director of DVM-PhD Program, Hodgson Chair of Equine Studies.



Dr. Rebecca Bishop
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Bishop is currently a PhD student in Comparative Biosciences under the supervision of Dr. Annette McCoy, Associate Professor, Equine Surgery and Dr. Pamela Wilkins, Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine She is working on the study of “Multiomic Investigation of Peritoneal Fluid in Colic.”