

# Press Release



## For Immediate Release

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## NREF Awards 2025 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships

May 20, 2025 (Rolling Meadows, Ill.) – The [Neurology Research & Education Foundation](#) (NREF) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 2025 recipients of the NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships.

The Foundation awarded sixteen (16) medical student fellowships this year.

“The NREF is delighted to recognize the promise and potential of these outstanding medical students as they embark on research careers,” says NREF Research Committee Chair, Gregory J. Zipfel, MD, FAANS.

The [Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship](#) (MSSRF) program offers fellowships in the amount of \$2,500 to medical students in the United States, Canada or Mexico who have completed one or more years of medical school, and wish to spend a summer working in a neurosurgical laboratory, mentored by a neurosurgical investigator sponsor who is a member of the [American Association of Neurological Surgeons](#) (AANS).

Annually, these fellowships go to the brightest and most dedicated students, whose research projects are aimed at the better understanding, treatment, and prevention of neurological disorders and improved patient care.

The following individuals have been awarded a **2025 NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship**:

- **Cameron Aubert**, Drexel College of Medicine
- **Meghana Bhimreddy**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- **Sachiv Chakravarti**, Icahn Medical School at Mount Sinai
- **Rhiannon Champagne**, Texas A&M University
- **Hannah Haile**, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
- **Allie Heineman**, University of Cincinnati
- **Miguel Hernandez Rovira**, Washington University at St. Louis
- **Cameron Hill**, Harvard Medical School
- **Min Ji (Cindy) Koh**, Georgetown University School of Medicine
- **Saket Myneni**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- **Clairice Pearce**, University of Illinois - Chicago
- **Sohan Rao**, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- **Briana Santo**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- **Drew Schindler**, Texas A&M University
- **Caitlyn Smith**, University of Pennsylvania
- **Yan Zhou**, University of Colorado School of Medicine

The application for the 2026 NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship will open September 1, 2025 through the [NREF Online Grant Portal](#).

For information about NREF grant and fellowship programs, please contact NREF at (847) 378-0500 or [info@nref.org](mailto:info@nref.org).

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***About the NREF***

The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1980 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) to support research and education efforts that enhance and confirm the critical role neurosurgeons play in improving lives.

The NREF is dedicated to providing education to neurosurgeons at all stages of their careers, as well as funding research into new and existing neurosurgical treatments, in order to identify links between best practices and improved outcomes in patient care. Through voluntary public donations, corporate support, and donations from allied groups, the NREF supports endeavors that impact the lives of those suffering from epilepsy, stroke, brain tumors, spinal disorders, sports-related head injuries, lower back pain and Parkinson's disease.

For more information about NREF, please visit [www.nref.org](http://www.nref.org).