



CONTACT: Emily Cheramie Walz

215-575-4809 | echeramie@pewtrusts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 16, 2009

17 OF AMERICA'S MOST PROMISING SCIENTISTS SELECTED AS 2009 PEW SCHOLARS IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Philadelphia, PA—The Pew Charitable Trusts today named 17 early-career scientists as Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences. Scholars receive a \$240,000 award over four years to help support their work, which this year includes research related to cancer, Parkinson's disease, birth defects and epilepsy. The Scholars also gain inclusion into a select community of scientists that includes Nobel Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows and recipients of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award.

Now in its 25th year, the Program has invested more than \$125 million to fund over 460 scholars.

The selection process for the Pew Scholars is rigorously competitive. Applicants must be nominated by an invited institution and must demonstrate excellence and innovation in their research. This year, 149 institutions were invited to nominate a candidate in basic biomedical research, and 111 eligible nominations were received.

“Pew is thrilled to celebrate 25 successful years for the Biomedical Scholars program,” said Rebecca W. Rimel, President and CEO of The Pew Charitable Trusts. “Not only does the program provide extraordinary scientists with the resources to carry out significant research early in their careers, it also offers them the opportunity to exchange ideas and foster relationships during the annual meetings and various networking activities. These gatherings have often led to collaborations that have resulted in significant scientific progress.”

“The Pew Biomedical Scholars are a synergistic community whose connections are reinforced over the years,” said Craig C. Mello, Ph.D., a 1995 Pew Scholar and a 2006 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine, and the chair of the national advisory committee for the program. “I have no doubt that this immensely talented and diverse new class of Pew Scholars will have a major impact on biomedical research through their contributions as part of the Pew community and on science as a whole.”

The 2009 Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences are:

- **Frank Alber, Ph.D.**
University of Southern California
Computational biochemistry focused on higher-order DNA structure
- **Diana M. Bautista, Ph.D.**
University of California, Berkeley
Neuroscience of touch and pain
- **Jon P. Boyle, Ph.D.**
University of Pittsburgh
Host-pathogen interactions that underlie Toxoplasmosis
- **Zev D. Bryant, Ph.D.**
Stanford University
Biophysics, bioengineering of molecular motors
- **Qing R. Fan, Ph.D.**
Columbia University
Structural biology
- **Kevin A. Janes, Ph.D.**
University of Virginia
Bioengineering, systems biology, cancer-cell biology
- **John K. Kim, Ph.D.**
University of Michigan
Gene regulation by small RNAs
- **Alexander Meissner, Ph.D.**
Harvard University
Epigenetic regulation of stem cells

- **Jennifer G. DeLuca, Ph.D.**
Colorado State University
Mechanisms of mitotic chromosome segregation
- **Patrick J. Paddison, Ph.D.**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Stem cell and cancer biology
- **Joseph R. Pomeroy, Ph.D.**
Indiana University
Systems biology, cell cycle control
- **Nicholas J. Priebe, Ph.D.**
University of Texas at Austin
Visual neurobiology
- **Melissa M. Rolls, Ph.D.**
The Pennsylvania State University
Neuron degeneration
- **Charles G. Mullighan, M.D.**
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Genetics and biology of acute leukemia
- **Joshua W. Shaevitz, Ph.D.**
Princeton University
Bacterial biophysics
- **Ben Z. Stanger, M.D., Ph.D.**
University of Pennsylvania
Developmental biology related to cellular growth
- **R. Grace Zhai, Ph.D.**
University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine
Neuron protection and repair mechanisms

For full biographies and information regarding the scholars' research, please visit www.pewscholars.org.

The Pew Charitable Trusts (www.pewtrusts.org) is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public and stimulate civic life. We partner with a diverse range of donors, public and private organizations and concerned citizens who share our commitment to fact-based solutions and goal-driven investments to improve society.

###