



FELINE FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winn Feline Foundation 2020 Grant Awards Total \$304,477.00

Wyckoff, New Jersey, April 30th, 2020: Winn Feline Foundation is pleased to announce the award of fifteen feline medical research grants totaling \$304,477.00 funded through the generous support of private and corporate donations from around the world.

Over the years, Winn Feline Foundation has helped to advance veterinary expertise in all areas of feline health. Research topics considered for funding are quite broad and can cover any issue that potentially benefits feline health and well-being such as disease identification, treatment and diagnostics, nutrition and behavior, to name a few. In addition, project selection is based on strict criteria, including scientific merit, clinical relevance, budgetary soundness and humane treatment.

This year, the Winn Feline Foundation's Grant Review Committee reviewed forty four grant proposals and grants were awarded for the following studies:

W20-002 *Mechanism of action of doxycycline in inhibiting feline infectious peritonitis virus.*
PI: Gary R. Whittaker, PhD; Cornell University; \$25,000.00 (**Bria Fund**)

W20-003 *Developing a safe and effective anticoronaviral therapy for client-owned cats with FIP (continuation study).*
PIs: Dr. Brian Murphy, Niels C. Pedersen; University of California, Davis; \$21,500.00 (**Bria Fund**)

W20-005 *Determining the clinical efficacy of methfloquine for treatment of naturally occurring feline infectious peritonitis, stage 1.*
PIs: Professor Jacqueline Norris, Merran Govendir, Dr. Benjamin Kimble; University of Sydney; \$20,500.00 (**Bria Fund**)

W20-007 *Transcriptomic analysis of CRISPR-Cas9 edited iPSC-CMs to identify and therapeutically target key biological pathways in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy caused by the Ragdoll R820W mutation.* PIs: Professor David J Connolly, Dr. Luke Dutton; The Royal Veterinary College; \$11,542.09 (**Ricky and General Fund**)

W20-009 *Investigating cell molecular biological influence of PTC-209, a novel anti-cancer stem cell drug, in cats with oral squamous cell carcinomas lines.*
PI: Hiroto Yoshikawa; North Carolina State University; \$25,000.00 (**Oncology and General Fund**)

W20-016 *Evaluation of oxidative stress in nonazotemic cats with increased symmetric dimethylarginine concentrations.*
PIs: William Whitehouse, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), Nicolette Cassel, BSc, BVSc, MMedVet, DECVDI; Kansas State University; \$19,426.00 (**Feline Kidney Fund, in honor of Vicki Thayer, DVM, DABVP – Feline**)

W20-019 *Phase 1 clinical trial investigating burst wave lithotripsy for treatment of obstructing ureteroliths in cats.*

PIs: Eva Furrow, Jody Lulich; University of Minnesota; \$23,405.00 (**Feline Urinary Fund, Feline Kidney Fund in honor of Vicki Thayer, DVM, DACVP - Feline and General Fund**)

W20-020 *In Vitro Characterization of Small Molecule Inhibitors of Pancreatic Amyloidosis for Diabetic Cats.*

PI: Jessica Fortin; Michigan State University; \$24,365.00 (**General Fund**)

W20-021 *The effect of feeding frequency on feline energy metabolism and body composition – a long term study.*

PIs: Adronie Verbrugghe, Anna Kate Shoveller; Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph; \$24,946.00 (**General Fund**)

W20-029 *Probing Modulation of FeLV Integration Sites into the Cat Genome Using Epigenetic Modulators.*

PIs: Dr. Cheryl Swenson Kruger, Dr. Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan; Michigan State University; \$25,000.00 (**Infectious Disease and General Fund**)

W20-031 *Identification of Microsporium canis virulence factors.*

PI: Sue VandeWoude; Colorado State University; \$21,366.00 (**General Fund**)

W20-032 *Development of a Rapid Diagnostic Test for Microsporium canis.*

PI: Sue VandeWoude; Colorado State University; \$14,062.00 (**General Fund**)

W20-039 *Effects of general anaesthesia and surgery on renal biomarkers in cats.*

PI: Dr. Kavitha Kongara, BVSc (Cert. ECFVG-AVMA), MVSc, PhD; Massey University; \$20,700.00 (**Feline Kidney Fund in honor of Vicki Thayer, DVM, DACVP - Feline**)

W20-040 *The effect of an intravenous injection of branched chain amino acids on body temperature of cats undergoing general anesthesia.*

PI: Stuart Clark-Price; Auburn University; \$7,665.00 (**General Fund**)

W20-044 *Development and Initial Validation of a Frailty Scale for domestic cats.*

PIs: Tony Buffington, Melissa J. Bain; University of California, Davis; \$20,000.00 (**General Fund**)

About Winn Feline Foundation

Winn Feline Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1968 that supports studies to improve cat health. Since 1968, Winn Feline Foundation has funded more than \$7 million in health research for cats at more than 30 partner institutions world-wide. For further information, go to www.winnfelinefoundation.org.

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