
IWMF APPROVES \$2.4 MILLION FOR NEW 2023 RESEARCH GRANTS

The IWMF is pleased to announce the selection of its 2023 research grant awards. This year, the IWMF Board of Trustees approved funding for eight new research grants to WM scientists in four different countries. This represents a commitment of nearly \$2.4 million over the next two years.

Researchers from around the world responded to the IWMF Requests for Proposals. The proposals were evaluated and scored in a rigorous and competitive process, first by detailed, in-depth reviews by scientists who were selected from the IWMF Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) or who were prior WM research grantees, followed by discussion and debate by the entire SAC.

The research grants fall into three categories:

1. IWMF-LLS Strategic Research Roadmap Initiative grants, which are major, highly competitive awards for up to \$480,000 in targeted research areas that have been identified through strategic discussions with WM experts, the IWMF, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
2. Research Seed Money Initiative grants, which are designed to enable investigators to test innovative, new hypotheses or ideas during a one-year period and potentially generate preliminary data that lead to major proposals for future research funding (funding for up to \$90,000).
3. Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award Program grants, which are given to talented, young junior faculty members or postdoctoral fellows to enable them to perform WM research in a mentored environment, with the hope of fostering a new generation of WM researchers (funding for up to \$157,500).

The new 2023 research grants are awarded to:



DR. ZACHARY HUNTER

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA.

Characterization of isoform usage, novel isoforms, and tumor evolution in WM
(Roadmap Grant, \$480,000)



DR. PATRIZIA MONDELLO

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA.

Identifying the oncogenic cooperation between IRF4 and MYD88 L265P and their impact on the tumor microenvironment of WM
(Roadmap Grant, \$480,000)



DR. MARCEL SPAARGAREN

Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Towards a rational targeted combination therapy for WM by venetoclax sensitizer CRISPR screens
(Roadmap Grant, \$476,000)

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DRS. TINA BAGRATUNI AND MELETIOS DIMOPOULOS
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.

Genomic characterization of ibrutinib-resistant WM
(Roadmap Grant, \$400,000)



DR. MARION ESPÉLI
Inserm U1160, Institut de Recherche Saint Louis, Paris, France.

Impact of MYD88 and CXCR4 mutations on age-associated B cells at steady state and in the course of Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia
(Seed Money Grant, \$90,000)



DR. JITHMA PRASAD ABEYKOON
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA.

Defining the prognostic significance of TP53 alterations in WM and exploiting them for therapeutic benefit
(Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award, \$157,500)



DR. MARIA LUISA GUERRERA
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA.

Characterizing the role of the ERK1/2 regulator WNK2 as a novel target in the disease progression of MYD88 mutated WM
(Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award, \$157,500)



DR. CHRISTELLE VINCENT-FABERT
Centre de Biologie et de Recherche en Santé (CBRS), Inserm 1262, Limoges, France.

Study of immune microenvironment and BCR signaling in a WM-like mouse model
(Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award, \$157,500)

Pete DeNardis, Chair of the IWMF Board of Trustees, said that the additional funding for the 2023 IWMF research grant awards now brings the grand total of funds earmarked by the IWMF for WM-specific research to \$23 million since 2000. That amount of funding has led to significant discoveries that benefit the global WM community—discoveries that wouldn’t happen without the IWMF’s involvement and without the generosity of donors to the IWMF to support its research mission. These new grants enable the IWMF to continue to work toward accomplishing its vision of a world without WM!