Announcing the 2011 SYNERGY Scholars Awards

Two outstanding young research scientists have been selected as recipients of the inaugural SYNERGY Scholars Mentored Career Development Program, funded through Dartmouth SYNERGY | The Dartmouth Clinical and Translational Science Institute. These two-year awards begin on September 1, 2011.

The selected scholars were chosen by a panel of 12 senior scientists through a rigorous peer-review process. Each award involves at least two Mentors to oversee the scholar’s progress in patient-oriented research; the Mentors are chosen to reflect the disciplines needed to gain independence in the proposed research area.

The SYNERGY Scholars are:

**Scholar:** Auden C. McClure, M.D. M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
**Project Title:** New Media Alcohol Marketing and Adolescent Binge Drinking  
**Mentors:** James Sargent, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics; and Meg Gerrard, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry

**Scholar:** Matthew C. Havrda Ph.D., Instructor, Department of Pediatrics  
**Project Title:** Identification of Preclinical Biomarkers of Parkinson’s Disease Using a Novel Mouse Model  
**Mentors:** Mark Israel, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and of Genetics; Stephen Lee, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology; Scott Gerber, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Genetics

The Dartmouth SYNERGY Scholars Mentored Career Development Program is modeled on the NIH K12 Scholars Program. It combines didactic training, mentoring, exposure to multidisciplinary research, and ongoing evaluation to prepare junior investigators for careers in Clinical Translational Research. The SYNERGY Scholars award provides funds to cover 75% of the individual’s salary, up to $100,000, plus fringe benefits annually, as well as funds for travel, supplies, research assistant salary, and tuition expenses (up to $25,000 per year).

The overall goal of the SYNERGY Scholars program is to develop future researchers and facilitate collaborative translational research studies across all our institutions and affiliated health centers. The program aims to accelerate the process of translational and clinical research, with a positive impact upon Dartmouth’s clinical and translational research enterprise.