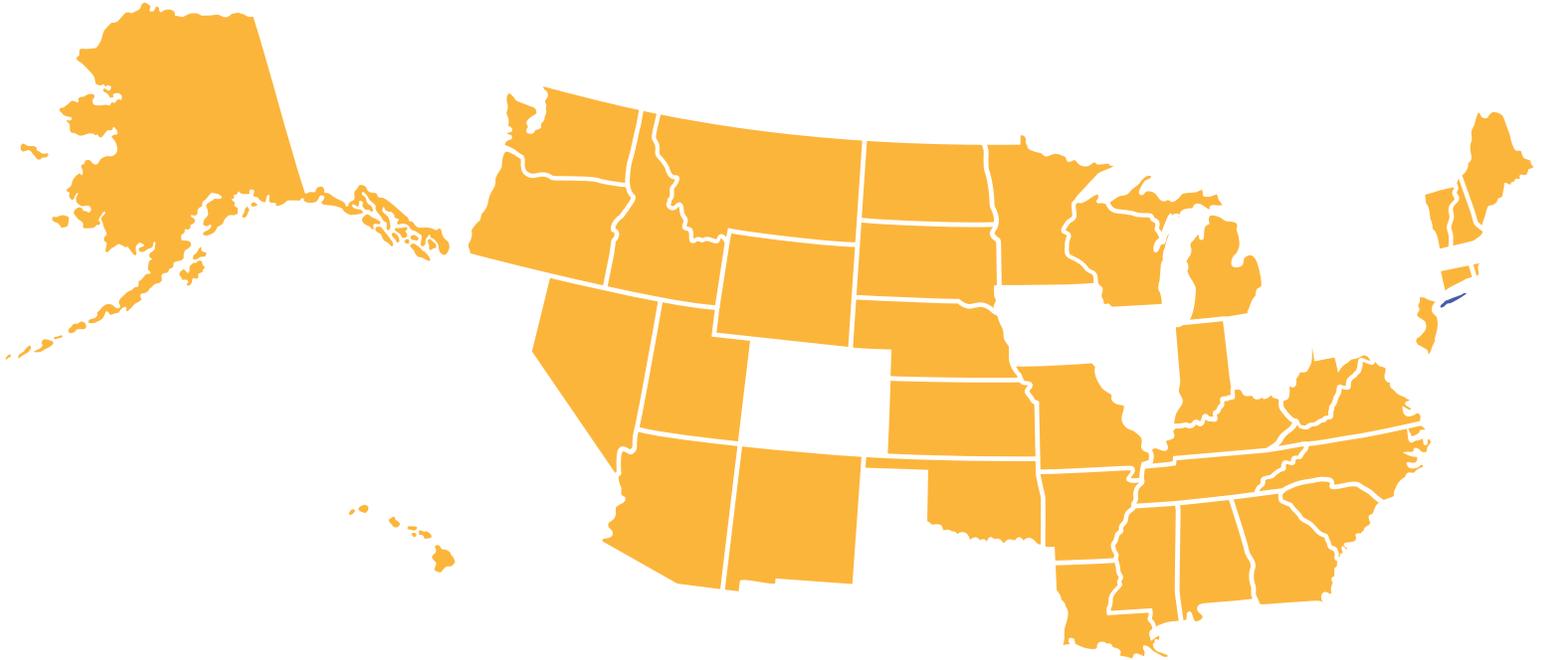


MDA Winter 2017 Research Grants by State



California

Jie Jiang, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, University of California – San Diego, in La Jolla, Calif., was awarded an MDA development grant totaling \$180,000 over three years to improve understanding of the disease mechanisms underlying the most common inherited form of **ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)**.

Albert La Spada, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, cellular & molecular medicine, neurosciences, and biological sciences at the University of California, San Diego, in La Jolla, Calif., was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to study disease mechanisms in **spinal-bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA)**.

Colorado

Alexander Polster, Ph.D., assistant research professor in the department of physiology and biophysics at the University of Colorado Denver, was awarded an MDA development grant totaling \$180,000 over three years to study the interactions among disease proteins causing **periodic paralysis** and **central core disease (CCD)**.

Florida

Vijayendran Chandran, Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of pediatrics, University of Florida School of Medicine in Gainesville, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to identify biomarkers in **Friedreich's ataxia (FA)**.

Manuela Corti, Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of Florida in Gainesville, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$298,954 over three years to study gene therapy in **Friedreich's ataxia (FA)**.

Darin Falk, Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of Florida in Gainesville, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to elucidate mechanisms underlying **Pompe disease (acid maltase deficiency or AMD)**.



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Maurice Swanson, Ph.D., professor in the department of molecular genetics and microbiology at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to generate new research models for **myotonic dystrophy (DM)** and use them to test new therapeutic strategies.

Illinois

Mattia Quattrocchi, Ph.D., at the Center for Genetic Medicine, Northwestern University – Chicago, was awarded an MDA development grant totaling \$180,000 over three years to study the effects of glucocorticoids on muscle repair and regeneration in **Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)**.

Iowa

Lori Wallrath, Ph.D., professor and vice chair in the department of biochemistry at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$285,254 over three years to screen for drug targets aimed at restoring muscle function in **Emery–Dreifuss muscular dystrophy (EDMD)**.

Maryland

Mohamed Farah, Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology and neuroscience at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to investigate whether a drug currently in development for Alzheimer's disease can improve function in **ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)**.

Jiyou Wang, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to work toward a better understanding of the underlying cause of **ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)**.

Massachusetts

Charles Emerson, Ph.D., professor of neurology and director of the Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Program at University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to study the contribution of genes and epigenetic modifications to **facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)** disease processes.

Fen–Biao Gao, Ph.D., professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to identify new drug targets for **ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)**.

Emanuela Gussoni, Ph.D., associate professor at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$297,985 over three years to study the role of a protein called CD82 in **Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)**.

Eduardo Balsa Martinez, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the division of cancer biology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, was awarded an MDA development grant totaling \$180,000 over three years to identify therapeutic targets in mitochondrial diseases such as **mitochondrial myopathy**.

Thurman Wheeler, M.D., assistant professor in the department of neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$330,000 over three years to develop biomarkers for **myotonic dystrophy (DM)** and other muscle disorders.

New York

Aaron Beedle, Ph.D., at Binghamton University – SUNY, in New York, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to conduct preclinical studies of a potential therapeutic strategy for **limb-girdle muscular dystrophy (LGMD)** and **congenital muscular dystrophy (CMD)**.

Ohio

Scott Harper, Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics at Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 for three years to test a gene therapy for **facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)**.



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Pennsylvania

Tejvir Khurana, M.D., Ph.D., professor in the department of physiology & Pennsylvania Muscle Institute, Perleman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$240,000 over three years to test a therapeutic strategy for **Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)**.

Araya Puwanant, M.D., assistant professor in the department of neurology at the University of Pittsburgh, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$298,852 over three years to try to facilitate therapy development by identifying practical and reliable endpoints in **myotonic dystrophy (DM)**.

Texas

Laxman Gangwani, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of biomedical sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso, Texas, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$280,500 over three years to identify therapeutic targets in **spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)**.

Washington, D.C.

Marshall Hogarth, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow at Children's Research Institute, Children's National Health System in Washington, D.C., was awarded an MDA development grant totaling \$180,000 over three years, to improve understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of the fatty replacement of muscle in type 2B **limb-girdle muscular dystrophy (LGMD)** as well as in **Miyoshi myopathy**.

Henry Kaminski, M.D., Meta A. Neumann Professor and Chair of the department of neurology at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$367,187 over three years to test a therapeutic strategy in cell and rat models of **myasthenia gravis (MG)**, with the intent to demonstrate the feasibility of the approach and then move to human clinical trials.

James Novak, Ph.D., postdoctoral associate at Children's Research Institute, Children's National Health System in Washington, D.C., was awarded an MDA development grant totaling \$180,000 over three years to examine why exon skipping drugs are most effective at getting to muscles that are actively undergoing repair in **Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)**.



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Australia

Nigel Laing, Ph.D., National Health and Medical Research Council principal research fellow and head of the Neurogenetic Disease Laboratory at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, The University of Western Australia in Perth, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$149,412 over two years to test two potential gene therapy treatment approaches for **McArdle disease**.

Canada

Eric Shoubridge, Ph.D., at McGill University in Montreal, Québec, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$287,169 over three years to study a new gene linked to **ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)**.

Cyprus

Kleopas Kleopa, M.D., professor and senior consulting neurologist at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine, in Nicosia, Cyprus, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$119,999 over a period of two years to test whether gene therapy treatment after disease onset could lead to functional improvements in CMT1X, the second most common form of **Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT)**.

Germany

Erik Storkebaum, Ph.D., independent Max Planck Research group leader at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine in Münster, Germany, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$291,000 over three years to study the underlying mechanisms that drive the disease process in **Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT)**.

Italy

Maria Pennuto, Ph.D., associate professor at Dulbecco Telethon Institute Lab of Neurodegenerative Diseases, Centre for Integrative Biology (CIBIO) at the University of Trento in Italy, was awarded an MDA research grant totaling \$300,000 over three years to increase understanding of disease mechanisms that underlie **spinal-bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA)**.



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