

March 20, 2010

SU LUO RECEIVES AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION RESEARCH SEED GRANT

[BOSTON, MA] — Su Luo was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation's Seed Grant Research Program. Established in 2000, the program provides small grants to medical students, physician residents and fellows to conduct basic science or clinical research projects.

Ms. Luo is one of only 38 individuals nationwide who received a seed grant this year. She is a medical student at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine who is completing research at the Wellman Center for Photomedicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital this year. Ms. Luo will use the funds to analyze the mutation profile of a large cohort of spitz tumors. These melanocytic proliferations of the skin have had historically difficult diagnoses due to their histopathological overlap with melanoma. Molecular techniques will be used to screen for *BRAF*, *NRAS*, and *HRAS* oncogenic mutations, and in addition, a novel target, *c-KIT*, will be analyzed as potentially harboring the driving mutation for spitzoid proliferations.

“Research dollars are becoming scarce, and for younger scientists new to the field, they’re even harder to find,” said AMA Foundation president Richard Hovland, CPA, CHE, CAE. “The AMA Foundation is committed to supporting the discoveries and professional development of physicians at the start of their careers.”

The Seed Grant Research Program was created to encourage more physicians to consider research as a career option. Many recipients go on to publish their work, present at scientific meetings, or even secure larger grants.

The AMA Foundation supports a broad range of programs in public health and medical education. Visit www.amafoundation.org for more information.