



Storm Cat Award

Over a Decade of Success

The Storm Cat Award is designed to introduce young researchers to equine sciences. The program has established itself as an elite incubator for young minds with novel ideas and unique approaches for advancing equine health. The Award is named in honor of the famous Thoroughbred stallion at Overbrook Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. Mrs. Lucy Young Hamilton, whose family owns Overbrook, is a member of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation's board of directors, and benefactor of the Award. We proudly salute our first decade of recipients.

2006 Dr. Jonathan Cheetham, Cornell – received his PhD at Cornell in 2008 where he is an Assistant Professor of large animal surgery and continues his research dealing with the upper respiratory tract. Dr. Cheetham received a grant from Grayson in 2011 as the Principal Investigator (PI) on a study addressing laryngeal neuropathy and he is the Co-PI on a grant submitted this year.

2007 Dr. Martin Vidal, Louisiana State University – received his PhD in 2009 from LSU and moved to UC Davis where he did research in somatic stem cells. Dr. Vidal received a grant from Grayson in 2010 for a stem cell research study.

2008 Dr. Christianne Magee, Colorado State University – received her PhD from CSU and presently teaches anatomy and conducts research in reproductive endocrinology there.

“ My Storm Cat Award was the single most important factor that propelled my career in to academia, where I now serve as an educator and role model in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University. Following my residency at the CSU Equine Reproduction Laboratory, the award allowed me to be able to financially afford pursuing my PhD and continue my research in to the neuropeptide kisspeptin and its role in equine reproduction. ..., I am eternally grateful for the opportunity that was provided to me by Mrs. Hamilton and the Grayson-Jockey Club to explore my potential and find a place where I can make a difference every day. ”



Dr. Christianne Magee, 2008 Storm Cat Awardee

2009 Dr. Melissa King, Colorado State University – received her PhD from CSU and is now assistant professor in the Gait and Equine Sports Medicine Department of the CSU orthopedic research lab.

2010 Dr. Catherine Radcliff Hackett, Cornell – received her PhD from Cornell and worked in the stem cell research lab of Dr. Lisa Fortier for 2 years before establishing a referral and consultation practice. On her website the first honor and award referred to is the Storm Cat award with a link to her winning the award in the Zweig press, a Cornell periodical.

2011 Dr. Kyla Ortved, Cornell – received her PhD from Cornell in 2014 and worked in orthopedic surgery and research and currently plans to take a position at the University of Pennsylvania in gene research and orthopedics.

2012 Dr. Alice Stack, Michigan State University – received her PhD from MSU in 2014 and served as a research associate in EIPH research with Dr. Fred Derksen in the Robinson Respiratory Lab.



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2013 Dr. Brandy Burgess, Colorado State University – received her PhD from CSU in 2014 and is currently Associate Professor at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Burgess has research ongoing in infectious disease epidemiology and is the Co-PI of a grant in review by Grayson for the 2016 funding cycle.



“ Receiving the 7th Annual Storm Cat Award afforded me the opportunity to conduct foundational research during my graduate program that promoted my further study of the epidemiology and ecology of infectious agents in equine veterinary hospitals using cutting-edge techniques – a focus of my current research program at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Additionally, I believe that having the support of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation was key to my current success in attaining a tenure-track faculty position and, as junior faculty, believe that it has bolstered my ability to secure additional research funding. ”

Dr. Brandy Burgess, 2013 Storm Cat Awardee

2014 Erin McConnachie, University of Georgia – working as Assistant Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine, while still in pursuing her PhD.

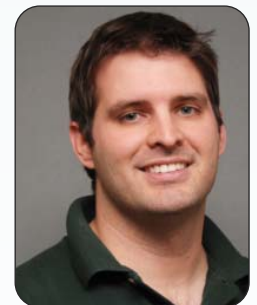
Daniel Youngstrom, Virginia Tech – also received a Fullbright Fellowship and spent a year in Latvia studying crossover stem cell research human/equine and plans upon graduation to continue his research in this area.

Katarzyna Dembeck-The Ohio State – currently finishing her PhD under Dr. Ramiro Toribio and is doing research dealing with critically ill foals and steroid/neurosteroid dynamics as co-PI on a grant funded by GJCRF in 2015.

2015 Brad Nelson, Colorado State University – finishing his PhD studies as he works as a clinician in the Orthopedic Research Center at CSU. He has been a co-investigator with Dr. Chris Kawcak on a project funded recently by Grayson.

“ The Storm Cat Award was the first award that I received in my early research career and it helped reinforce confidence in my abilities and validate my planned career choices. Receiving this award was a pivotal step in my career that ignited my enthusiasm in research and its influence has built my confidence in pursuing other grant funding mechanisms. I am deeply appreciative and honored to have been a part of this program. ”

Brad Nelson, 2014 Storm Cat Awardee



Heidi Resesink, Cornell – currently finishing her PhD studies at Cornell in stem cell therapies under Dr. Alan Nixon.

Aimee Colbath, Colorado State University – Aimee is currently finishing her PhD and is a co-investigator with Dr. Laurie Goodrich (former Research Advisory Committee Member) to develop allogeneic stem cells that can be used in any horse without fear of rejection. This project is in year two and funded by Grayson.

2016 Elaine Norton, University of Minnesota – Dr. Norton is currently enrolled in the PhD program and her field of study is comparative and molecular biosciences.