# The Edmond J. Safra Fellowship in Movement Disorders

Fall 2023



E D M O N D J. S A F R A PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION



"To date, the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship is ranked as the best fellowship funding of its kind, is highly sought after, and is a great achievement for the centers and fellows who are bestowed with this honor."

— Susan Fox, MB ChB, MRCP(UK), PhD
 Edmond J. Safra Fellowship Director at
 Toronto Western Hospital

### Table of Contents

02	A Note from Dr. Rachel Dolhun Training Leaders for a New Era in Parkinson's Research and Care
04	Illustration The Global Network, Growing Stronger
08	Recent Graduates Class of 2023
14	Fellowship Directors Class of 2023
18	Career Development Awards
21	Fellows Classes of 2024 and 2025
23	Fellowship Centers

Class of 2026

### Training Leaders for a New Era in Parkinson's Research and Care

As one of the earliest and most supportive champions of The Michael J. Fox Foundation's mission to find a cure for Parkinson's disease, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation has played a seminal role in advancing the most promising Parkinson's research. Nearly a decade ago — nine years, to be exact — the Edmond J. Safra Foundation and MJFF forged a deeper partnership with a broader focus. Our intent: to shape Parkinson's care as a complement to research. With that aim, we launched the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship in Movement Disorders.

While we envisioned great strides forward, we could not have anticipated the program's clear and broad impact less than a decade from formalization. Today, the



Edmond J. Safra Fellowship is a renowned and distinguished funding source, signaling to both trainees and patients and families the highest quality training and most skilled and compassionate care.

The program has built and sustained a global network one comprising 52 fellowship directors, 32 graduates and 16 trainees across four continents and 11 countries. Our growing network expands patients' access to specialist care, provides unique educational and partnership opportunities and international collaboration in research, through projects such as the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI) and Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2), inspired by the Edmond J. Safra FoundationThe next generation of physicianscientist leaders are uniquely positioned to usher in the next chapter of Parkinson's research and care.

supported Global Genetics Consortia, which was founded in the early 2000s.

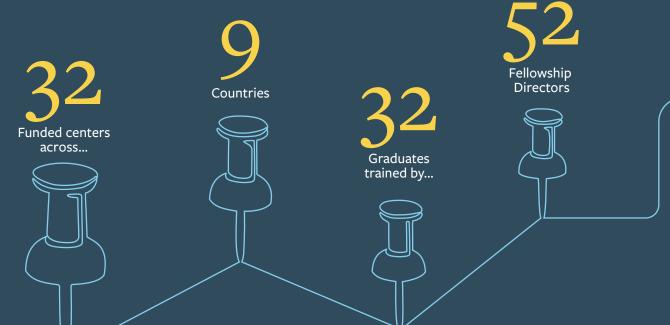
Through the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship and the earlycareer development it fosters, the next generation of physician-scientist leaders are uniquely positioned to usher in the next chapter of Parkinson's research and care — one enabled by the recent uptick in drug development and research breakthroughs. The latest: the validation, through PPMI, of a spinal fluid test for alpha-synuclein, the hallmark protein of Parkinson's. This test will transform clinical trials today and, in the future, revolutionize disease understanding, diagnosis and care while paving a path toward disease prevention. To maintain this incredible momentum, the field will rely on capable and dedicated leaders like those of the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship network.

In this publication, we're pleased to celebrate the Fellowship network and, specifically, the Class of 2023, our seventh graduating class. The many achievements of our network — and its impact on the lives of people and families with Parkinson's — are possible only through the vision, generosity and sustained partnership of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation.

R.D. ( (

Rachel Dolhun, MD, DipABLM Senior Vice President, Medical Communications The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

## Reaching More People with Parkinson's across the Globe



"Our center is located in East Baltimore, a socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhood. While our patient population includes referrals from around the world, I am honored to take care of our local population."

— Stephen Berger, MD, PhD Class of 2024





"I work as a movement disorder neurologist at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, which is the only movement disorder specialty clinic for patients in the state."

— Aditya Vikram Boddu, MD Class of 2022

## Serving Underrepresented Populations

A survey of alumni and early-stage Fellows shows commitment to serving and expanding access to care for people who are underserved.



"I work with Parkinson's disease support groups in the United States and countries in Central America, providing educational materials in Spanish and updates in the diagnosis and management of Parkinson's disease."

José Ricardo López Castellanos, MD
 Class of 2024

have worked with underserved populations



"I carry out genetic testing and validation of genetic findings for patients in low-income and very low-income countries at University College London."

— Francesca Magrinelli, MD, PhD Class of 2023



"Our unit [in western Sydney] is actively liaising with our Aboriginal health unit in an effort to close the gaps in health disparity and life expectancy between Aboriginals and non-indigenous Australians."

— Duncan Wilson, PhD, MRCP, MB ChB Class of 2025

## Moving the Field Forward through Research

330+

scientific articles and abstracts published throughout the network



have reviewed grants or manuscripts

"My biggest accomplishment has been developing my research experience by participating in different research projects and clinical trials. In particular, I have enjoyed participating in Parkinson's disease biomarkers studies and in clinical trials targeting Parkinson's disease genes."



Laura Armengou García, MD, PhD Class of 2024 Educating the Next Generation of Movement Disorder Specialists



of alumni mentored a medical or research trainee

75%

of alumni participated in training of future movement disorder specialists



Sarah Horn, MD Class of 2019 "I created a movement disorders fellowship in 2020 and graduated the first fellow in 2022." "I established a new movement disorders fellowship and am serving as the fellowship director. I also supervise neurology resident clinics and in the medical school, I teach neurology courses and a neurology clinical elective."



Eric Jackowiak, MD Class of 2020

# Recent Graduates

Class of 2023

### Class of 2023

### Sergio A. Castillo-Torres, MD

Servicio de Movimientos Anormales, Fleni Buenos Aires, Argentina



#### An Engineer of the Nervous System

I grew up in Monterrey, Mexico, where most of my family members work as electrical engineers. But I fell in love with physiology and went to medical school. I wanted to understand how the body functions and I'm equally fascinated with the complexity of the brain. But now that I'm doing work in deep brain stimulation, or DBS, for Parkinson's disease, I've been reading up on the fundamentals of electricity, which of course reminds me of my family. My grandfather in particular is a strong presence in my life and he's an electrical engineer. I gain invaluable information and advice from him.

#### **Overcoming Misconceptions**

Doctors in fields other than neurology tend to see movement disorders as this strange, rare set of conditions where patients can't be helped. That's not true at all, though I also believed that when I was first introduced to neurology as a medical student. Gradually, I learned that you could spend time with patients, listen to them, examine them, describe what you were seeing and ultimately help them with diagnoses and care.

#### Modifying the Brain, in Real Time

As part of my research with Marcelo Merello, the current Fellowship director at Fleni, I've been focusing on DBS and loving it. One thing I'm doing is keeping a DBS registry — essentially a database of patients who have had DBS surgery. I keep it up to date with their programming sessions and progress. We want to use this information to predict which patients are most likely to benefit from specific DBS interventions. To have the ability to fine-tune a person's brain function in real time, in a reversible way, is amazing. This technology has the potential to change patients' lives.

### Bringing Treatments and Technology to New Places and Patients

My plan is to go back to Monterrey after my fellowship and to continue working with my mentor Ingrid Estrada. I'll be working at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. I hope to eventually open the first center for PD there. Right now, there are only two or three movement disorder specialists in a city of 5 million people, so there's a great need for experts in the field who can train others. I want to make the latest research and treatments like DBS accessible to all patients in Mexico, where this treatment tends to be most accessible for those with private insurance.

### Class of 2023

### Stephen Joza, MD, PhD

Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill University Montreal, Canada



#### **Family Legacy**

My father and sister are both cardiologists, one brother is an internist and my mother is a family physician. I took a different path: After college, I decided to go into experimental research and did my PhD in pathobiology, which studies the biological aspects of disease. Eventually though, I missed working with people. I admired all the good things my parents and siblings were doing for others and I missed helping people face to face. That's why I decided to go to medical school.

#### An "Aha" Moment

I still have a vivid memory from medical school, when we students met with a few neurology patients to find out what neurology was all about. One patient had Parkinson's, and he had an implant for deep brain stimulation, or DBS. I remember that his arm was shaking. But then he pressed some buttons on his control pad and the shaking stopped. That made a huge impression on me. Since then, I've also come to love that so much of working in this field is about observing and listening to patients. To get to a diagnosis, we have to tap the reflexes, examine a patient's stiffness and try to characterize and describe their tremors it's a deeper level of observation.

#### **Predicting the Future**

I'm very interested in the prodromal phase of PD, which is the period when someone begins to develop a host of nonmotor symptoms, often long before their diagnosis. For instance, they might begin to lose their sense of smell or have issues with depression or constipation. Some patients also develop a sleep problem known as REM sleep behavior disorder (RBD), where they violently act out their dreams. Studies suggest up to 80 percent of people with RBD will go on to develop Parkinson's within five to 10 years, and I'm interested in how we can help them before they get there. If we can diagnose people with RBD and start treating them early, it's possible we'll be able to either slow the onset of PD or prevent it from happening altogether. Because of my interest in RBD and Parkinson's, I'm going to the University of Toronto next year to do a year of sleep training. In Canada, sleep neurology is really in its infancy and I want to learn more about it. To me, this area is the most exciting thing in the field right now — I'm excited to couple my interests in sleep and movement disorders to help people who have Parkinson's or might develop it in the future.

### Francesca Magrinelli, MD, PhD

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology London, England



#### **Seeking Answers to Mysterious Questions**

I wanted to be a neurologist before I even knew what neurology was, or that it was possible to study medicine. When I was seven or eight, my grandfather was diagnosed with brain cancer and no one in my family explained what was happening, or why he couldn't speak anymore. The only thing I knew was that he was going to a "neurologist," so for me, this mysterious doctor became a central figure. That fascination didn't change once I was in medical school in Verona, Italy, where I grew up. So many of my classmates were wondering what specialty to go into, but I just knew.

#### **Searching for Clues**

I love that in neurology one has to be a detective, like Sherlock Holmes, picking up the subtle signs in a patient. And I ended up specializing in movement disorders, because to me, it comes closest to that ideal: The basis of it all is picking up both obvious and more subtle symptoms of disease in the patient and putting them together by using your reasoning.

#### A Focus on Often-neglected Patients

My research is focused on rare movement disorders, including the genetics of early-onset Parkinson's disease [when symptoms develop before age 45-50]. Too often, patients with rare disorders don't get enough attention, partly because these conditions can be tricky to diagnose and manage. My main research now is focused on validating a new gene that we believe is responsible for inherited juvenile/early-onset parkinsonism. This is important work as it can unveil the mechanism of disease shared by other genetic forms of Parkinson's disease, which affect approximately 10 percent of people with Parkinson's, as well as by the common sporadic Parkinson's. If we can shed light on these less common disorders, the funding will increase and, in turn, we'll be able to do more research so we can pinpoint the mechanism of these diseases and get to disease-modifying treatments. I'm optimistic that gene therapy to treat genetic forms of PD will be a reality within 10 years.

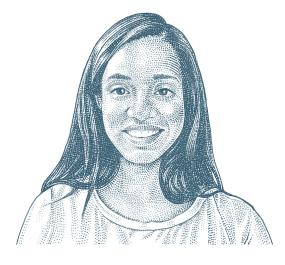
#### **The Best of Both Worlds**

I'm passionate about my research, but for me, it all starts in the clinic with the patients. My best ideas come from observing them and trying to find common features in patients with rare or unknown diagnoses, then moving on from there. Ultimately, I want to be able to speak in a double language: talking to patients and talking to scientists. These two worlds are still quite distant from each other and I want to be a liaison of sorts — to bridge that gap.

### Class of 2023

### Poornima Menon, MB BCh BAO, MRCPI

Hôpital Pitié Salpêtrière Paris, France



#### The Eyes Can Tell

I liked neurology from the start of medical school. It's all about problem solving, hearing patients' stories — every story is different — and how what you see with your eyes ultimately tells you what's going on with a patient. But my main motivation for going into movement disorders is because someone close to me was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease when I was in my second year of residency. When a loved one goes through something like this, it's a big shock. But it also made me more passionate and determined to be an advocate for people with PD.

#### **Addressing a Dire Need**

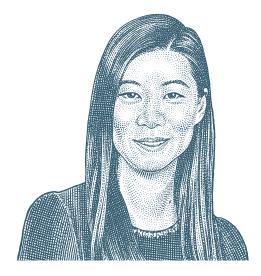
As a neurologist, I've experienced treating patients and doing research in Ireland, where I grew up and went to school, and in France, where I'm working now. The French tend to be more innovative in their experimenting. One patient mentioned that drinking coffee had helped his symptoms, and now one of my colleagues is studying that connection. In all of Ireland, there are only about 40 neurologists, which can have an impact on how well patients end up doing and how early they are able to get treatment. That made me realize how important it is to have good movement disorder specialists throughout the world, and it's part of the reason why, eventually, I plan to take my skills back to Ireland.

#### Getting to the Root of Early-onset PD

In addition to my clinical work with patients, I'm interested in discovering new genes and further characterizing known genes associated with PD, including PRKN, a gene that's thought to kick off early-onset PD. We're studying 650 patients with the PRKN gene from 14 different centers around the world. One thing we've found is that people with the gene who've had PD for 30 or 40 years don't tend to end up with severe disease. For instance, I recently met with two sisters with PD who have the PRKN gene, who are 55 and 60 years old and doing very well. It was great to be able to tell them that, because of the research we're doing, we believe their PD won't progress. Being able to reassure these early-onset PD patients has been very satisfying.

### Andrea Yoo, MD

Mount Sinai Beth Israel New York, NY



#### **A Different Perspective**

My father developed symptoms of Parkinson's while I was in college, but was not formally diagnosed for several years due to his young age. It was not until I was in medical school doing my neurology rotation in movement disorders that my suspicions were confirmed. You could say his experience was my gateway to neurology and movement disorders, though I didn't realize it then. During my four-week rotation in neurology in medical school, I was lucky to be able to spend a lot of time in the movement disorders clinic, and that piqued my interest in the field. Having a family member with PD has given me a different perspective than other physicians. When you're in training, you don't always have time to think about things from the family's viewpoint. But because of my father, I'm more aware of it.

#### A Culture of Caring

I love that during my fellowship, I had the luxury of being able to spend a lot of time with patients during our appointments and follow them over the long term. I know patients really appreciate that kind of ongoing care. In fact, now that I'm starting to tell patients that I'll be graduating soon and taking a position as an assistant professor of clinical neurology at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City, I've been getting a lot of hugs.

#### **Using Light to Improve Sleep in PD**

People with PD tend to have sleep issues and may have problems with insomnia and sleep fragmentation, when sleep is interrupted during the night. These sleep problems leave them tired during the day and impact their quality of life but they haven't been as closely studied in association with PD as motor symptoms have. That's why it has been exciting to have this be one of my areas of focus during my fellowship. One of our studies involved setting up a light fixture that mimics natural light in the homes of PD patients who were sleeping poorly, to see if we could reset their circadian rhythms and sleep cycle. Studies like this that look at multiple non-motor symptoms and the secondary symptoms experienced by people living with Parkinson's are interesting to me, and I hope to continue to focus on them.

# Fellowship Directors

Class of 2023

### Kailash Bhatia, MD

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology; London, England

Kailash Bhatia is professor of clinical neurology at the Institute of Neurology, UCL Queen Square, London. He is a clinical academic with research interests in a range of movement disorders, merging clinical, genetic and electrophysiological methods to describe clinical phenotypes and pathophysiology. Bhatia has authored more than 700 peer-reviewed publications and several books including *Marsden's Book of*  Movement Disorders, which received the best book in neuroscience award from the British Medical Association in 2013. He is the co-chief and founding editor of the Movement Disorders Clinical Practice journal. Bhatia has trained more than 40 fellows from a half-dozen countries and is proud to have mentored two Edmond J. Safra Fellows in Movement Disorders.

### Jean-Christophe Corvol, MD, PhD

Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière; Paris, France

Jean-Christophe Corvol is professor of neurology at the Sorbonne University, head of the Department of Neurology and the Clinical Research Center for Neurosciences at the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, and co-leader of a research team studying the molecular pathophysiology of Parkinson's disease at the Paris Brain Institute (ICM). He is co-chair of the French clinical research network for Parkinson's disease (NS-PARK/FCRIN) regrouping the 26 expert Parkinson's disease centers in France. The author of more than 300 published papers, he focuses his research on genetics and clinical trials in Parkinson's disease.

# Class of 2023 — *Fellowship Directors*

### Marcelo Merello, MD, PhD

Fleni Hospital; Buenos Aires, Argentina

Marcelo Merello is director of neuroscience and head of the Movement Disorders Service at the Raul Carrea Institute for Neurological Research at Fleni Hospital. He is also professor of neurology at the Universidad Católica Argentina, chair of postgraduate neurology at the University of Buenos Aires and principal clinical researcher for the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET). He is the author of more than 250 peerreviewed papers and has served as coeditor-in-chief for *Movement Disorders Clinical Practice* since 2013.

### Ronald B. Postuma, MD, MSc

Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University; Montreal, Canada

Ronald B. Postuma is a clinical researcher and movement disorders neurologist treating patients with Parkinson's disease and related disorders. His research focuses on detecting the early stages of Parkinson's disease, examining the impact of nonmotor symptoms on disease subtype and prognosis, and testing new treatments for nonmotor manifestations such as sleep disorders. He codirects the National Residents Course in movement disorders, serves on the executive of the educational committee of the Movement Disorders Society and is cochair of the society's task force on the definition of Parkinson's.

### Rachel Saunders-Pullman, MD, MPH, MS

Mount Sinai Beth Israel; New York, New York

Rachel Saunders-Pullman is a neurologist and clinical translational researcher who cares for people with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders and studies genetic and epidemiologic factors relating to Parkinson's, including biomarkers and subgroups of disease. As the Bachmann-Strauss Professor of Neurology and fellowship director of the Movement Disorders Fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, she is proud to have mentored exceptional movement disorders clinicians and clinical researchers. Saunders-Pullman serves on the steering committee of the Parkinson's Disease Biomarker Program and coleads the Task Force on Genetic Testing and Counseling in Parkinson's Disease for the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society.

"I was able to learn from movement disorder experts around the world...The network I was able to build during my Fellowship will benefit me for the rest of my career."

- Judith van Gaalen, MD, Class of 2021

*The Edmond J. Safra Movement Disorders Research Career Development Awards* 

### 2023 Awardees



### Francesca Magrinelli, MD, PhD

Class of 2023

University College London; London, England

Magrinelli aims to replicate, functionally validate and mechanically characterize a novel candidate gene for early-onset Parkinson's and parkinsonism, further dissecting Parkinson's pathogenesis and defective pathways in order to identify druggable targets. While rare, monogenic PD forms have enabled invaluable insights into PD pathogenesis, thus representing a fast track to targeted therapies.



### Kimberly Kwei, MD, PhD

Class of 2020

Columbia University; New York, NY

To gain a better understanding of the neuronal circuits underlying freezing of gait, commonly encountered in advanced Parkinson's and some atypical parkinsonisms, Kwei will study the clinical convergence of symptoms to learn more about commonalities and divergences in pathophysiology across disease entities. Launched in 2022 with support from the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, this competitive research funding opportunity aims to support the early career development and research trajectory of Edmond J. Safra Fellowship alumni. Awardees are chosen based on the strength of the investigator, clarity of path to scientific independence and potential impact of the proposal. Each receives a \$50K grant to support a two-year project.

### 2022 Inaugural Awardees

### Conor Fearon, BE, MB, PhD

#### Class of 2022

Dublin Neurological Institute; Dublin, Ireland

Conor Fearon seeks to develop quantitative biomarkers of Parkinson's disease to help differentiate between PD and related disorders through analysis of eye movements and pupillary response. Fearon has recruited a substantial number of participants and evaluated eye movements, using a specialized eye-tracking device, while participants watch video clips. Preliminary data from PD participants demonstrate that the technology is working as expected, with participants having slower eye movements and differential pupillary changes compared to control volunteers.

### Anne Weissbach, MD

### Class of 2020

The Institute of Neurogenetics in Lübeck; Lübeck, Germany

Anne Weissbach's Early Career Development Award funding supports a mobile examination unit to evaluate rare PD mutation carriers in remote locations. This builds upon Weissbach's ongoing work comparing sensorimotor integration and clinical symptoms to define PD subgroups and identify protective markers in mutation carriers. Weissbach has initiated recruitment and started transcranial magnetic stimulation testing in control volunteers. "My deepest thanks to The Michael J. Fox and Edmond J. Safra Foundations for the support over these years and for this award, which have enabled me to train and lay foundations for my career in an extraordinary center. All this would have never been possible otherwise."

Francesca Magrinelli, MD, PhD
 Class of 2023



The Edmond J. Safra Fellowship is currently supporting 16 movement disorder specialists in training at top-tier medical centers around the world.

### Class of 2024

### Laura Armengou García, MD, PhD

Toronto Western Hospital; Toronto, Canada Fellowship Directors: Susan Fox, MB ChB, MRCP(UK), PhD; Anthony Lang, MD, FRCPC

### Milan Beckers, MD, PhD

Radboud University Medical Centre; Nijmegen, the Netherlands Fellowship Directors: Bastiaan Bloem, MD, PhD; Bart Post, MD, MSc, PhD; Bart van de Warrenburg, MD, PhD

### Stephen Berger, MD, PhD

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Baltimore, Maryland *Fellowship Director: Alexander Pantelyat, MD* 

### José Ricardo López Castellanos, MD

Emory University; Atlanta, Georgia Fellowship Director: Stewart Factor, DO

### Leila Saadatpour, MD

Cleveland Clinic; Cleveland, Ohio Fellowship Director: Hubert Fernandez, MD

### Christina Swan, MD, PhD

Rush University Medical Center; Chicago, Illinois *Fellowship Director: Katie Kompoliti, MD* 

### Rebecca Williamson, MD

University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania *Fellowship Director: Nabila Dahodwala, MD, MS* 

### Jun Yu, MD, MS

Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at University of Florida Health; Gainesville, Florida *Fellowship Director: Christopher W. Hess, MD* 

### Fellows

### Class of 2025

### William Barbosa, MD

University of Rochester; Rochester, New York *Fellowship Director: Jamie Adams, MD* 

### Juan Ramon Deliz, MD

Northwestern University; Chicago, Illinois Fellowship Director: Tanya Simuni, MD

### Kacey Hu, MD

University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine; Los Angeles, California *Fellowship Directors: Mark Lew, MD; Xenos Mason, MD* 

### Taha Omer, MBBS, Dip.Ther, DCSM, MRCPI, MRCP (London), PhD

University of Calgary; Calgary, Canada Fellowship Director: Justyna Sarna, MD, PhD

### **Emily Tharp, MD** University of Texas Health Science Center; Houston, Texas

### Mehmet Salih Tuncer, MD

Fellowship Director: Mya Schiess, MD

Charité — Universitätsmedizin; Berlin, Germany Fellowship Directors: Andrea Kühn, MD; Christos Ganos, MD

### Duncan Wilson PhD, MRCP, MB ChB

Westmead Hospital and University of Sydney; Sydney, Australia Fellowship Directors: Victor Fung, MBBS, PhD; Neil Mahant, MBBS, PhD

### Isabel Wurster, MD

University of Tübingen; Tübingen, Germany Fellowship Director: Thomas Gasser, MD

### *Class of 2026 Fellowship Centers*

The program recently selected eight international centers, four of which are new to the fellowship network, to train the ninth fellowship class.

Each center will now identify a candidate to begin two years of training in July 2024.

### Brigham and Women's Hospital Harvard Medical School

Boston, Massachusetts Fellowship Directors: Alice Flaherty, MD, PhD; Barbara Changizi, MD

### Fundació de Recerca Clínic Barcelona — Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (FRCB-IDIBAPS)

Barcelona, Spain Fellowship Director: Francesc Valldeoriola, MD, PhD

### **Rush University Medical Center**

Chicago, Illinois Fellowship Director: Katie Kompoliti, MD

### **University College London**

London, England Fellowship Director: Kailash Bhatia, MD

### **University Medical Center Groningen**

Groningen, Netherlands

Fellowship Directors: Marina de Koning-Tijssen, MD, PhD; Teus van Laar, MD, PhD

### University of California San Diego

San Diego, California Fellowship Directors: David Coughlin, MD; Caitlin Mulligan, MD

### **University of Miami**

Coral Gables, Florida Fellowship Directors: Corneliu Luca, MD, PhD; Danielle Shpiner, MD

### University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Fellowship Directors: Andres Deik, MD, MSEd; James F. Morley, MD, PhD; Pavan Vaswani, MD, PhD



As the world's largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson's research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's disease and improved therapies for those living with the condition today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson's patients, business leaders, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. In addition to funding \$1.5 billion in research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure. Operating at the hub of worldwide

#### michaeljfox.org

Parkinson's research, the Foundation forges groundbreaking collaborations with industry leaders, academic scientists and government research funders; creates a robust open access data set and biosample library to speed scientific breakthroughs and treatment with its landmark clinical study, PPMI; increases the flow of participants into Parkinson's disease clinical trials with its online tool, Fox Trial Finder; promotes Parkinson's awareness through high-profile advocacy, events and outreach; and coordinates the grassroots involvement of thousands of Team Fox members around the world.



E D M O N D J. S A F R A PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

Edmond J. Safra, one of the 20th century's most accomplished bankers and a devoted philanthropist, established a major charitable foundation to ensure that individuals and organizations would continue to receive his assistance and encouragement for many years to come. Led for more than 20 years by his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation draws continuing inspiration from Mr. and Mrs. Safra's values and priorities, supporting

#### edmondjsafra.org

hundreds of organizations and programs in more than 40 countries around the world. Its work encompasses four areas: education; science and medicine; religion; and humanitarian assistance, culture and social welfare. The Foundation has provided significant funding for Parkinson's disease research and patient care at dozens of hospitals and institutes in places as varied as Natal (Brazil), Toronto, New York, Grenoble, Paris, London and Jerusalem.

### Credits

Fellow biographies as told to Paula Derrow Illustrations by Nancy Januzzi



- **f** michaeljfoxfoundation
- X @michaeljfoxorg
- @michaeljfoxorg
- michaeljfox
- michaeljfox.org 1 800-708-7644