Peter Adams Awarded $300,000 to Study Aging

By

Jayne B. Stearns

For more than three decades, [the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)](https://www.afar.org/about) has supported the science of healthier aging and has played a major role in advancing knowledge of aging and mechanisms of age-related disease. In that spirit, it provides grants to more than 4,100 talented scientists to research aging.

AFAR also administers The Glenn Foundation for Medical Research. Mark R. Collins, President, described the goal of this grant: “Our aim is to support research that leads to a greater understanding of biological aging that will contribute to the development of treatments or preventive measures that extend human healthspan”.

This year, Peter Adams, Ph.D. professor at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute (SBP) in La Jolla, CA. was awarded the two-year, $300,000 Glenn Foundation for Medical Research Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG) Award.  
   
He’ll be researching ways to identify and to prevent misfolding of chromatin (a mixture of DNA and protein) in the nucleus of cells and which causes cell and tissue dysfunction in aging.

Dr. Adams says, “the BIG awards are important as they fund higher risk, potentially transformative projects with less preliminary data. This support will allow me to test the existence of chromostasis (chromatin homeostasis), and identify the genes involved.”

Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG) Awards has been in existence since 2005 and has provided more than $5,800,000 to 32 investigators nationwide. Their awardees are selected by a committee of distinguished scientists working in the field of aging research.

This is not the only grant awarded by the AFAR. They also administer the following grants:

* [Small Research Grant Program for the Next Generation of Researchers in Alzheimer’s Disease (R03)](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/small-research-grant-program-for-the-next-generation-of-researchers-in-ad/)
* [The Irene Diamond Fund/AFAR Postdoctoral Transition Awards in Aging](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/diamond-postdoc/)
* [Arthritis and Aging Research Grant](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/arthritis-and-aging-research-grant/)
* [The Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award in Aging (K76)](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/beeson/)
* [Glenn Foundation for Medical Research Postdoctoral Fellowships in Aging Research](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/glenn-postdoc/)
* [Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/mstar/)
* [AFAR Scholarships for Research in the Biology of Agin](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/afar-scholarships/)g
* [The New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer’s Disease](https://www.afar.org/research/funding/new-investigator-awards/)

**About the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research**– Founded by Paul F. Glenn in 1965, the mission of the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research is to extend the healthy years of life through research on mechanisms of biology that govern normal human aging and its related physiological decline, with the objective of translating research into interventions that will extend healthspan with lifespan. Learn more at [http://www.glennfoundation.org](http://www.glennfoundation.org/).

**About AFAR** – The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine. To address the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the science of healthier aging, AFAR funds physicians and scientists probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations at critical points throughout their careers. Learn more at [http://www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org/) or follow AFAR.org on Twitter and Facebook.

**Research**

1. Public Press Release. EurekAlert! November 7, 2018.  
<https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-11/affa-dpa110718.php>