

CMIDD Announces 2015 Silverman Research Award Winners

The Center for Molecular Innovation and Drug Discovery (CMIDD) has announced its 2015 Silverman Research Award recipients. The one-year grants, made possible by the generous support of Richard Silverman, chemistry, enable Northwestern investigators to obtain preliminary results for early drug development.

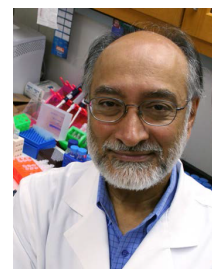
THIS YEAR'S AWARDEES ARE:

Robert Lamb, molecular biosciences. Lamb will pursue a novel strategy to develop therapeutics for treating respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a potentially deadly virus in infants that can cause lung failure, pneumonia, and bronchitis. Currently, no approved vaccine for RSV exists and treatments are limited. With these funds, Lamb will work with CMIDD members **Gary Schiltz** and **Rama Mishra** to produce a compound for treating RSV.



Robert Lamb

Teepu Siddique, neurology and cell and molecular biology. Siddique's previous work with CMIDD led to the discovery of two compounds that inhibit the expression of a mutant protein (SOD1) linked to familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). To learn more about how these inhibitors work, Siddique and **Thomas Lukas**, pharmacology, will collaborate with Schiltz to develop these compounds into chemical probes to identify their molecular target. This research will help elucidate the mechanism of action and uncover new biological targets that may lead to the further development of more efficacious and less toxic ALS therapeutics.



Teepu Siddique

Alfred George, pharmacology, and **Milan Mrksich**, biomedical engineering. George and Mrksich seek to optimize an in vitro analytical method to study the functional consequences of several dozen human genetic variants in a drug metabolizing enzyme. The award will support the synthesis of 12 new chemical probes for use in assays of this human enzyme activity. The research will have a significant impact in pharmacogenomics and will increase our understanding of how different individuals respond to medicines.



Alfred George