



Boettcher Foundation Launches Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program, Announcing Inaugural Class of 'Boettcher Investigators'

The Boettcher Foundation is proud to introduce the new Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program and its 2010 (Inaugural) Class of Boettcher Investigators. This new grant program will ensure that the Webb-Waring legacy lives on both through the discovery of new knowledge that improves human health and through the investment in and advancement of early-career scientists.

Denver, CO, June 30, 2010 - In ceremonies held today at the Colorado Governor's Residence at the Boettcher Mansion, the first class of 'Boettcher Investigators' in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program was introduced by Edward D. "Ted" White III, Chairman of the Boettcher Foundation Board of Trustees. Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., and Gregory Downey, M.D., Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs at National Jewish Health and Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Immunology at University of Colorado's School of Medicine, also spoke at this historic event.

The announcement is made by Timothy W. Schultz, President and Executive Director of the Boettcher Foundation, who says the new program fills an important unmet need by assisting early-career investigators engaged in biomedical sciences in Colorado to advance their research and honors the tradition of the Webb and Waring families by investing in science that has the possibility of making significant contributions to human health.

Governor Ritter said, "By supporting our early-career investigators, the Boettcher Foundation brings resources to an area where funds are currently lacking and where federal and private research programs provide little support. Early-stage investigators have a difficult time getting a first opportunity at an independent research effort that will move them out of the laboratory of their mentors and into their own new and exciting areas of discovery. The Boettcher Foundation continues to serve the needs of Colorado in generous, visionary and innovative ways."

The 2010 (Inaugural) Class of Boettcher Investigators in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program includes the following:

- **Shaodong Dai, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Immunology, National Jewish Health, Chronic Beryllium Lung Disease
- **Robin Dowell, D.Sc.**, Assistant Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, University of Colorado at Boulder, Translational Bioinformatics Involving Drug Efficacy and Genetics
- **Gidon Felsen, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Colorado – Anschutz Medical Campus, Parkinson's Disease
- **Paul Jedlicka, M.D., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Colorado – Anschutz Medical Campus, Ewing Sarcoma, a Common Cancer of the Bone and Soft Tissue Affecting Children
- **Keith Neeves, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, Colorado School of Mines, Role of Blood Flow in the Formation of Blood Clots
- **Melissa Reynolds, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Colorado State University, Nitric-Oxide Releasing Materials for Cardiovascular Medical Devices

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Individual grant amounts for these research projects range from \$200,000 to \$300,000. The grant amounts allocated varied based on funding available to the institution and size of project. Per program guidelines, the minimum budget was required to be \$200,000.

“We’d announced the creation of the Program in 2008, as the result of an innovative agreement among the Boettcher Foundation, Webb-Waring Foundation for Biomedical Research and the University of Colorado,” Schultz explains. “In the interim, we’ve worked long and hard with our State’s Universities, public officials, the Governor’s Office, and the bioscience industry in Colorado to understand the strategies in place and to identify the best opportunity for investment by the Foundation of more than \$1 million each year into efforts to increase our competitiveness in biomedical science.”

Dr. Downey said, “I want to express our appreciation and respect for the manner in which the Boettcher Foundation has worked with the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, National Jewish Health and Research Center, and at least eight other prominent research institutions in the State, in designing and implementing the new Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program. The Foundation’s process brought us all to the table in a productive and creative dialogue.”

The Boettcher Foundation, its Trustees and institutional partners worked together for over two years on the best way to acknowledge and celebrate the scientific and public service legacy of the Webb and Waring families. This new program will ensure that these legacies live in the discovery of new knowledge that improves human health and in the advancement of young scientists.

Early-career investigators (ECI’s) are faculty members who are four years or less from their first academic appointment at a research institution. The grants through the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program support the work of the promising ECIs in Colorado. The work is significant in scope and impact and the grants provide support for major efforts in biomedical science. Eligible investigators apply through competitive processes established within their individual institutions.

“The Boettcher Foundation wanted the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program to invest where the impact would be the most substantial, fund excellence in people, partner with the State’s research institutions on the implementation of the program and further the Webb and Waring families’ long tradition of commitment to science and human health.

“The program enhances the mission of the Boettcher Foundation, which was created by a visionary and pioneering family in Colorado to improve the quality of life and opportunities for Coloradans. It is with gratitude to these generous families that the Boettcher Foundation now introduces the new Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program that will support the important work of Boettcher Investigators,” Schultz concludes.

About the Boettcher Foundation

For over 70 years the Boettcher Foundation has served the people of Colorado by investing in young minds through its Scholarship Program and helping to build community infrastructure through capital grant making. In virtually every community throughout the state, the Foundation has partnered with outstanding nonprofits to make a difference in people's lives. The Foundation believes that this is what the Boettcher family intended when they gave their wealth to establish the Foundation for the benefit of the citizens of Colorado. For more information visit: <http://www.boettcherfoundation.org>

About the Boettcher Foundation's Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program

The Webb-Waring Institute was founded in 1924 by Dr. Gerald B. Webb and later directed by Dr. James J. Waring. For over 80 years, the organization has contributed to the advancement of biomedical research by engaging in basic and clinical research and training research scientists. In 2008, the Webb-Waring Institute became a part of the University of Colorado and is now known as the Webb-Waring Center. The Boettcher Foundation was entrusted with the stewardship of the Webb-Waring Foundation's assets. Through an innovative agreement between the Boettcher Foundation and the Webb-Waring Institute, a new funding area was established at the Boettcher Foundation that will support the work of early-career investigators in the biomedical sciences in Colorado.

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Backgrounding Links:

[PDF: 2010 Boettcher Investigators: One-sheet Overview](#) - <http://tinyurl.com/2010BoettcherInvestigators>

[PDF: The Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program: Executive Summary](#) - <http://tinyurl.com/WebbWaringExecutiveSummary>

[PDF: The Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program: Program Overview](#) - <http://tinyurl.com/WebbWaringProgramOverview>

[PDF: The Webb-Waring Family Legacy](#) - <http://tinyurl.com/WebbWaringLegacy>