Baszucki Brain Research Fund Grant Awardees *2022*

The Baszucki Brain Research Fund and the Milken Institute are pleased to announce the 45 teams from around the world who have been selected to receive funding for their research to advance understanding of bipolar disorder, therapeutic discovery, and translational efforts. Nine million dollars have been awarded across 35 distinct institutions, with 8 countries represented.

Jorge Almeida, MD, PhD
University of Texas at Austin
Oxygenating the brain with laser stimulation therapy to improve cognitive function in bipolar disorder

Ana Andreazza, PhD
University of Toronto
Energy metabolism and bipolar disorder: From early detection to diagnosis and effective treatment

Paola Arlotta, PhD
Harvard University
Using human brain organoids to understand the biology of response to lithium

Joanna Biernacka, PhD
Mayo Clinic
Mood Stabilizer Genomics (MoStGen) Consortium: A study of anticonvulsant mood stabilizer (AMS) pharmacogenomics

Hilary Blumberg, MD
Yale School of Medicine
A novel mitochondrial target as a therapeutic approach for bipolar disorder

Amanda Brown, PhD
Johns Hopkins University
Using microglia-like cells to identify potential responders to L-type channel blockers

Katherine Burdick, PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Identifying modifiable risk factors for poor outcome in bipolar disorder: Therapeutic mechanistic targets

Paolo Cassano, MD, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Transcranial photobiomodulation with near-infrared light for impulsivity in hypomania

Susan Dymecki, MD, PhD
Harvard Medical School
Affective disorders, seasonal photoperiod and adaptive neurotransmitter plasticity in a subtype of brain serotonergic neuron

Jess Fiedorowicz, PhD
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
A randomized control trial of the effectiveness of blue-blocking glasses for mania in inpatients with bipolar disorder

Benicio Frey, MD
McMaster University
Proof-of-concept study for intranasal delivery of MANF as a novel treatment approach for bipolar disorder

Gabriel Fries, PhD
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Targeting accelerated aging in bipolar disorder: Calorie restriction mimetics as a novel treatment strategy

Cynthia Fu, PhD
University of East London
Community-based transcranial direct current stimulation treatment for bipolar depression

Dr. Todd Gould, MD
University of Maryland
Effects of lithium in mesolimbic dysfunction in bipolar mania

Itay Hadas, PhD
University of California San Diego
Bipolar efficacy biomarkers for accelerated intermittent theta burst rTMS trial

Diego Hidalgo-Mazzei, MD, PhD
Fundació Clínic per a la Recerca Biomèdica (FCRB)
Identifying digital biomarkers of illness activity and treatment response in bipolar disorder

Damien Keating, PhD
Flinders University
The contribution of the gut to bipolar disorder

Beny Lafer, PhD
University of São Paulo
A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of probiotics as adjuvant therapy for bipolar depression: A proof-of-concept trial

Paulo Lizano, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Causal lesion network guided treatment of bipolar mania with transcranial electrical stimulation

Rodrigo Machado-Vieira, MD, PhD
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
A randomized, placebo controlled trial of the fatty acid amide hydrolase inhibitor palmitoylethanolamide in bipolar depression

Rodrigo Mansur, PhD
University Health Network
Brain insulin sensitivity and reward behavior in bipolar disorder

Cynthia Marie-Claire, PhD
University of Paris
DNA methylation markers in predicting response to lithium therapy in bipolar disorder

Colleen McClung, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Identification of therapeutic targets of valproate (VPA) for the treatment of bipolar disorder

David Miklowitz, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles
A collaborative treatment network for youth with or at high risk for bipolar disorder

Ricardo Mouro Pinto, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Investigation of a polymorphic DNA repeat at the CACNA1C gene in bipolar disorder

Niamh Mullins, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Statistical and functional fine-mapping of bipolar disorder genetic risk loci

Andrew Nierenberg, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Xenon for bipolar depression

Sue O'Shea, PhD
University of Michigan
Targeting exosome cargos in bipolar disorder

Harry Pantazopoulos, PhD
University of Mississippi Medical Center
CACNA1C Genotype: Correlation with brain and blood levels of CACNA1C and treatment responsiveness

Demitri Papolos, MD
Juvenile Bipolar Research Foundation
Novel application of VNS therapy in the treatment of juvenile bipolar disorder

Krystal Parker, PhD
University of Iowa
Cerebellar stimulation as a novel therapy for bipolar disorder

Mary Phillips, MD
University of Pittsburgh
Establishing the effect of electroencephalography (EEG)-guided theta burst stimulation on reducing mania/hypomania-related affect and reward driven behavior in bipolar disorder

James Prisciandaro, PhD
Medical University of South Carolina
Experimentally evaluating the hypothesized mechanism of action of N-acetylcysteine for bipolar disorder

Natalie Rasgon, MD, PhD
Stanford University
Novel metabolic signatures in patients with bipolar disorder: Toward a specialized treatment paradigm

Philipp Ritter, PhD
Technische Universität Dresden
Temporospatial lithium central nervous system kinetics in bipolar disorder using repeated 7Li-MRI brain imaging

Susan Rossell, PhD
Swinburne University of Technology
The efficacy of adjunctive intranasal insulin for the treatment of neurocognitive dysfunction in bipolar disorder: A 12-week double blind, randomized, placebo controlled clinical trial

Bernardo Sabatini, MD, PhD
Harvard Medical School
Uncovering the genetic programs and brain circuits that mediate mania

Kirti Saxena, MD
Baylor College of Medicine
The Behavioral Health AVATAR (BHA) for automatic nonverbal behavioral analysis for personalizing treatment of bipolar disorder

Yvette Sheline, MD
University of Pennsylvania
Intensive TMS for rapid relief of bipolar depression symptoms

Jair Soares, MD, PhD
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Developing brain imaging analysis expertise for personalizing transcranial electric stimulation in anhedonia treatment of patients with bipolar depression

Paul Thompson, PhD
University of Southern California
The ENIGMA Bipolar Medications Initiative: A global study of bipolar disorder medication associations in the brain

Ivy Tso, PhD
University of Michigan
Enhancing neural synchrony and affective cognitive control in bipolar disorder using personalized transcranial alternating current stimulation (tACS)

Ken Walder, PhD
Deakin University
Repurposing drugs to treat bipolar depression using stem cell technology
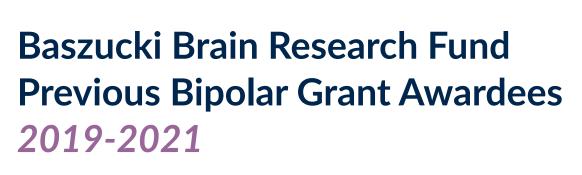
Janet Wozniak, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Transcriptomic and functional characterization of cerebral organoids in pediatric bipolar disorder

Peter Zandi, PhD
Johns Hopkins University
Leveraging a collaborative network to test a novel iTBS treatment for bipolar depression

Baszucki Brain Research Fund Previous Bipolar Grant Awardees
2019-2021

Helen J. Burgess, PhD
University of Michigan
Sleep Across the Seasons (SASS) for bipolar disorder

Harry Campbell, MD, Iain Campbell, PhD and Daniel Smith, MD
University of Edinburgh
Phase 2 clinical trial and mechanistic study of ketogenic diet in bipolar disorder

Shebani Sethi Dalai, MD
Stanford University
Impact of a ketogenic diet on metabolic and psychiatric health in patients with schizophrenia or bipolar illness

Gregory Fonzo, PhD
University of Texas
Targeting neural structures in the amygdala to treat mood disorders

Mike Fox, MD, PhD, Shan Siddiqi, MD, and Joseph Taylor, MD, PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Identifying transcranial magnetic stimulation targets for mood stabilization in bipolar disorder

Lilianne Mujica-Parodi, PhD
Stony Brook University
Neuroblox software: a data-driven platform for computational psychiatry

Emily Provost, PhD
University of Michigan
Predicting Individual Outcomes for Rapid Intervention (PRIORI) ambient emotion study

Natalie Rasgon, MD, PhD
Stanford University
Elucidation of clinical endophenotypes of persons with mood disorders

Zoltan Sarnyai, PhD and Carlo Longhitano, MD
James Cook University
Ketogenic diet in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia

Leanne Williams, PhD
Stanford University
PANLAB research fund

Nolan Williams, MD
Stanford University
Stanford Accelerated Intelligent Neuromodulation Therapy (SAINT) for treatment-resistant depression

Nolan Williams, MD
Stanford University
Electrophysiological biomarkers of mania and SAINT response in bipolar disorder