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For Immediate Release

2019 Vision Grant Recipients Announced

Awardees to focus on fetal microchimeric cells, computational image analysis of placenta, and educating survivors on cardiovascular risk

Melbourne, Florida – October 1, 2019 – The Preeclampsia Foundation and its affiliate Preeclampsia Foundation Canada have announced that Stephen McCartney, MD, PhD; Romina Plitman Mayo PhD; and Lisa Dubrofsky, MDCM, FRCPC; are recipients of the 2019 Vision Grants.

These highly competitive monetary awards recognize the best young investigators with novel research ideas in preeclampsia and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Drs. McCartney and Plitman Mayo each received \$20,000 USD and Dr. Dubrofsky received \$19,300 CAD.

The Vision Grants were awarded to the scientific proposals recommended by the Preeclampsia Foundation's scientific review committee with a further review by a consumer advisory board. The Preeclampsia Foundation's Board of Directors from the US and Canada rendered the final decision on those recommendations.

Dr. Stephen McCartney is a third-year fellow in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of Washington. He received a bachelor's degree in Biophysics from the Johns Hopkins University; MD and PhD in Immunology at Washington University in St. Louis; and completed residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Washington. His research interests are maternal and fetal immune interactions in the placenta and application of these findings to women with pregnancy complications. Clinically, he cares for many patients with preeclampsia and is focused on translating his research findings into improving clinical care through his investigation of fetal microchimerism on preeclampsia compared to normal pregnancy. His sister-in-law is a preeclampsia survivor.

Dr. Romina Plitman Mayo is Post-doctoral Researcher in the School of Mechanical Engineering at Tel Aviv University (TAU). She earned a BSc and MSc in Mechanical Engineering from Ben Gurion

University of the Negev, Israel and a PhD in Physiology, Development and Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge, UK.

Dr. Plitman Mayo's interest lies in the application of three-dimensional image analysis and computational modeling to broaden our understanding of placental complications. She is specifically focused on the hemodynamics, structural mechanics, transport phenomena and their interaction in normal and pathological placentas. Her long-term goal is to use imaging analysis and computational models as diagnostic and solution design tools in pregnancy.

Dr. Lisa Dubrofsky is a Clinical Associate with the Division of Nephrology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Canada. She is currently pursuing a Master of Applied Science Degree in Patient Safety and Healthcare through John Hopkins University, and the Master Teacher Program at the University of Toronto. Dr. Dubrofsky obtained her medical degree and internal medicine training at McGill University, followed by nephrology training at the University of Toronto. She is a certified Hypertension Specialist with the American Society of Hypertension. Dr. Dubrofsky's clinical and research interests are in hypertension and cardiovascular risk reduction.

Dr. Dubrofsky's project is entitled HER-HEART: mHealth Education to Reduce Heart Disease Post Pregnancy. Her pilot study will evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of a guideline implementation tool for CVD-education in women with a history of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. The tool consists of a web-based patient education platform, physician education platform, and option for a telemedicine consultation. Women, with a history of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP), are at an increased risk of hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and premature cardiovascular disease (CVD) and there is evidence that they are not receiving basic education or follow-up to reduce their risk of CVD outcomes.

For more information or to arrange an interview with these Vision Grant recipients or the leadership of the Preeclampsia Foundation and/or Preeclampsia Foundation Canada, please call 1.800.665.9341.

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Preeclampsia Foundation

The Preeclampsia Foundation is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2000. As the nation's only patient advocacy organization dedicated to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, the Foundation works to achieve its mission by raising public awareness, providing patient support and education, improving healthcare practices, and catalyzing research. The Foundation envisions a world where preeclampsia and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy no longer threaten the lives of mothers and their babies. For more information, visit www.preeclampsia.org.

Preeclampsia Foundation Canada

Preeclampsia Foundation Canada was incorporated under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act in May 2015. A charity dedicated to its mission of raising awareness and advancing education and research of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. These activities are made possible by the combined efforts of our dedicated Board of Directors, Medical Advisory Board members, donors, and volunteers. For more information, visit www.preeclampsiacanada.ca.

