



National Institutes of Health  
*Turning Discovery Into Health*

# NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop 2020

June 15 – 17, 2020



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

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INTERNATIONAL BIOMEDICAL  
RESEARCH ALLIANCE



# NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop 2020



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Day 1

Monday, 15 June 2020

Session I: Introduction

9:00am

**Introduction - Marya Sabir**  
NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2019  
2020 Workshop Chair

9:05am

**Welcome - Francis Collins, MD, PhD**  
National Institutes of Health, *Bethesda, Maryland, USA*  
Director, National Institutes of Health

9:20-10:20am

**Keynote - Madhukar Pai, MD, PhD**  
McGill University, *Montreal, Quebec, Canada*  
Canada Research Chair in Translational Epidemiology & Global Health  
Director, McGill Global Health Programs  
Director, McGill International TB Centre  
*"Reimagining Global Health In The Post-Pandemic World"*

*Break 10:20-10:30am*

Monday, 15 June 2020

Session II: Oral Presentations

Breakout 1

**Cellular & Molecular Biology - Dr. Lynda Truong (moderator)**  
10:30am - Benjamin Badger, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*  
10:45am - Joseph Roney, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2016*  
11:00am - Ryan Prestil, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*  
11:15am - Samantha Tilson, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*  
*Break 11:30-11:45am*  
11:45am - Steven Castellano, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*  
12:00pm - Darren Walsh, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2017*  
12:15pm - Dwayne Byrne, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2016*

Breakout 2

**Immunology - Hannah Mason (moderator)**  
10:30am - Kathleen Bashant, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*  
10:45am - Lindsey Rosen, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2016*  
11:00am - Zinan Zhang, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*  
11:15am - Kristoffer Johansen, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2016*  
*Break 11:30-11:45am*  
11:45am - Jonathan Liang, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*  
12:00pm - Allison Meadows, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*  
12:15pm - Cameron Gardner, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2016*

*Oral presentations continued on page 2*



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Monday, 15 June 2020

Session II: Oral Presentations

**Breakout 3****Neuroscience - Marya Sabir (moderator)**

10:30am - Connie Mackenzie-Gray Scott, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2017*

10:45am - Jacob Levenstein, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2016*

11:00am - Laura Palmieri, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2017*

11:15am - Anahit Mkrtchian, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2016*

**Break 11:30-11:45am**

11:45am - Maggie Westwater, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*

12:00pm - Ruairi O'Sullivan, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2017*

12:15pm - Adriano Bellotti, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*

**Break 12:30-12:35pm**

Monday, 15 June 2020

Session III: Elevator Pitches

**12:35-1:20pm****Team 1: DNAwesome**

**Team Leads:** Marya Sabir and Dr. Jeffrey Diamond

Marya Sabir, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2019*

Aaron Bernstein, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*

Samika Kumar, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*

Nicholas Pasternack, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*

Boya Wang, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*

Emily Kolyvas, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2018*

Yifan Zhou, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2018*

**Team 2: MAD SKiLS**

**Team Leads:** Katherine Masih and Dr. Sonja Best

Katherine Masih, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*

Abigail Giles, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*

Sara-Saheb Kashaf, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*

David Cruz Walma, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2019*

Mehdi Seif Hamouda, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2018*

Lawrence Wang, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2018*

**1:20-1:25pm****Concluding Remarks - Chad Coomer**

NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2017

2020 Workshop Vice-Chair



**NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop 2020**



**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

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**Day 2**

**Tuesday, 16 June 2020**

**Session IV: Introduction**

**9:00am**

**Introduction - Lauren Wedekind**  
NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2018

**9:05-10:05am**

**Keynote - Krystal Tsosie, MPH, MA**  
Vanderbilt University, *Nashville, Tennessee, USA*  
PhD Candidate, Genomics and Health Disparities  
*“Our Genomes, Our Health: Empowering Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Precision Medicine for US Tribes”*

*Break 10:05-10:15am*

**Tuesday, 16 June 2020**

**Session V: Oral Presentations**

**Breakout 4**

**Neuroscience & Neuroimmunology - Audrey Winkelsas (moderator)**

- 10:15am - Stewart Humble, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2016*
- 10:30am - Michael Metrick, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*
- 10:45am - Michael Fernandopulle, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*
- Break 11:00-11:15am*
- 11:15am - Hannah Mason, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*
- 11:30am - Zach Fitzpatrick, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*
- 11:45am - Nicole Mihelson, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2017*

**Breakout 5**

**Cancer & Genetics - Lauren Wedekind (moderator)**

- 10:15am - Andrei Ramirez-Valdez, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2017*
- 10:30am - William Nathan, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2016*
- 10:45am - Derek Xu, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2016*
- Break 11:00-11:15am*
- 11:15am - Daniel Bronder, *NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholar, Class of 2016*
- 11:30am - David Morse, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*
- 11:45am - Aleksandra Ivovic, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*

**Breakout 6**

**Infectious Disease & Vaccine Research - Katherine Masih (moderator)**

- 10:15am - Bridget Larman, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2017*
- 10:30am - Charles Coomer, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2017*
- 10:45am - Jessica van Loben Sels, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2016*
- Break 11:00-11:15am*
- 11:15am - Jyothi Purushotham, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2017*
- 11:30am - Victoria Avanzato, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2017*

*Break 12:00-12:05pm*



**INTERNATIONAL BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE**

12:05-12:50pm

**Team 3: Tony Fauci Fan Club****Team Leads:** Lauren Wedekind and Dr. Alan SherLauren Wedekind, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2018*Teddy Cai, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*Sean Corcoran, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*Mario Shammas, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*Mihael Cudic, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2018*Matthew Mulé, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2018*Madeline Epping, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2018***Team 4: Boss @\$ Pitches****Team Leads:** Hannah Mason and Dr. Lisa CunninghamAlex Waldman, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2018*Amelia Foss, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*John Shannon, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2018*Olive Jung, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2019*Stephen Gadomski, *NIH-Cambridge Scholar, Class of 2019*Taylor Farley, *NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2018*

12:50-12:55pm

**Concluding Remarks - Lynda Truong, DPhil**

NIH-Oxford Scholar, Class of 2015

*1:00-2:00pm Student Virtual Lunch**Lunch Gift Cards graciously provided by:*



# NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop 2020



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Day 3

Wednesday, 17 June 2020

Session VII: Awards

9:00am

## **Introduction - Alan Sher, PhD**

Scientific Director, NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program  
Deputy Chief, Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases  
Chief, Immunobiology Section

9:05-10:00am

## **Awards Ceremony**

### ***Gregory Paul Lenardo Basic Science Award***

Endowed by Dr. Michael Lenardo

### ***Translational Award for Advances in Medical Science***

Endowed by Dr. Richard and Vera Siegel

### ***Innovation Award***

Sponsored by BioHealth Innovation

### ***International Biomedical Research Alliance Leadership Award***

### ***Building a Better Community Through Service Award***

### ***Outstanding Recent Graduate Award***

### ***Distinguished Alumni Award***

### ***Mentor Award***

### ***Team Elevator Pitch Award***

### ***First Year Awards***

Winner and Honorable Mention

### ***Second Year Awards***

Winner and Honorable Mention

### ***Third Year Awards***

Winner and Honorable Mention

### ***Fourth Year Awards***

Winner and Honorable Mention

*End Workshop General Assembly*



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Wednesday, 17 June 2020

Session VIII: Student Affairs

- 10:10am**                    **Advancement of Class Year - Katie Stagliano, PhD**  
Executive Director, NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program
- 10:20-10:40am**           **Class of 2020 Introduction - Boya Wang**  
NIH-Cambridge Scholar, 2019  
Class of 2019 Representative, Student Leadership Board
- 10:40-11:40am**           **Annual Town Hall - Katie Stagliano, PhD**
- 11:40-11:45am**           **Closing Remarks - Katie Stagliano, PhD**

## Upcoming Events

- June 12**  
4-5pm (EST)                    **Alumni Seminar Series - Katie Warner, PhD**  
Founder & Vice President, Ribometrix
- June 24**  
10-11am (EST)                **Alumni Seminar Series - Elizabeth Tunbridge, PhD**  
Associate Professor, University of Oxford, Department of Psychiatry
- July 10**  
4-5pm (EST)                    **Alumni Seminar Series - Erin Coonahan, PhD**  
Medical Student, Track 3 GPP, UC San Diego School of Medicine
- July 13**  
3-4pm (EST)                    **Workshop Seminar Series - L. Michelle Bennett, PhD**  
Director, Center for Research Strategy at the National Cancer Institute (NCI)  
*“Team Science: Prepare Now, Profit Later”*
- July 29**  
11-12pm (EST)                **Workshop Seminar Series - Michele Hu, MBBS, FRCP, PhD**  
Professor of Clinical Neuroscience & Consultant Neurologist, University of Oxford  
*Title TBD*

*Acknowledgements continued on page 7*



## NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop 2020



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### Acknowledgements

The NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program and NIH Wellcome Trust Program would first like to acknowledge the immense contributions of the Workshop Planning Committee. These students have contributed a significant amount of time and energy into organizing this year's colloquium. The committee's outstanding service and dedication is helping to make the 2020 Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop a great event.

Marya Sabir (Chair) – Class of 2019  
Chad Coomer (Vice Chair) – Class of 2017  
Lynda Truong – Class of 2015  
Audrey Winkelsas – Class of 2015  
Kathleen Bashant – Class of 2016  
Hannah Mason – Class of 2017  
Andrei Ramirez-Valdez – Class of 2017  
Lauren Wedekind – Class of 2018  
Katherine Masih – Class of 2019  
David Cruz Walma – Class of 2019  
Will Nathan – Class of 2016

The NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program and NIH Wellcome Trust Program extend their sincere gratitude to NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins for agreeing to provide this year's Welcome Address. Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Collins has consistently supported our program, and we greatly appreciate his time and encouragement.

The Workshop Planning Committee would like to recognize our partnering programs and institutions, particularly the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, and Wellcome Trust Program. We also thank the OxCam Executive Committee and program faculty for their insightful feedback and willingness to lead/participate in various capacities. The Organizing Committee especially appreciates our faculty judges and keynote speakers, Dr. Madhukar Pai and Ms. Krystal Tsoie. Moreover, we would like to acknowledge Dr. L. Michelle Bennet and Dr. Michele Hu, who we were unable to accommodate due the condensed Workshop format, but have graciously agreed to serve as presenters for future program webinars. The Organizing Committee would also like to thank OxCam program alumni: Drs. Inn Inn Chen, Chibawanye Ene, Katy Graef, Paul Tesar, Elizabeth Tunbridge, and Katie Warner for their willingness to present at our Workshop Career Seminar Series.

The NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program and NIH Wellcome Trust Program also recognize our external stakeholders who are helping to make the NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop possible. Thank you to Erika Noyes and Amy Lang (<http://www.explorepsa.com/>) for designing and managing the conference website. Finally, the Workshop Planning Committee would like to extend a special, heartfelt thank you to Randi Balletta, Alexandra Ambrico, and the International Biomedical Research Alliance for their participation and continued support. For more information about the International Biomedical Research Alliance, please visit <https://biomedalliance.org/>.



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## Francis Collins, MD, PhD

Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH)



Dr. Collins, a physician-geneticist noted for his landmark discoveries of disease genes and his leadership of the international Human Genome Project, was appointed Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by President Obama and continues in this role under President Trump. From 1993-2008, Collins served as Director of the NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences. Collins has also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2007) and the National Medal of Science (2009).

## Prof. Madhukar Pai, MD, PhD, FCAHS

Canada Research Chair in Translational Epidemiology & Global Health  
Director, McGill Global Health Programs  
Director, McGill International TB Centre



Professor Madhukar Pai did his medical training and community residency in India, then completed his PhD in epidemiology at the UC Berkeley and a postdoctoral fellowship at UCSF. Madhu's research is mainly focused on improving the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, especially in high-burden countries like India and South Africa. His research is supported by grant funding from the Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, and Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Madhu serves on the SAGE-IVD committee of WHO; Scientific Advisory Committee of FIND; and Access Advisory Committee of the Stop TB Partnership.

## Krystal Tsosie, MPH, MA (Diné/Navajo Nation)

PhD Candidate  
Genomics and Health Disparities  
Vanderbilt University



Krystal Tsosie, MPH, MA (Diné/Navajo Nation) is an Indigenous geneticist- ethicist and co-founder of the Native BioData Consortium (NBDC), the first biological and data repository housed under the jurisdiction of a US tribal nation. She is currently completing her PhD at Vanderbilt University while also co-leading a community-engaged genetics lab at a tribal college. Additionally, she provides expertise in population genetics, ELSI (Cultural, Ethical, Legal and Social Issues), and Indigenous data sovereignty to the Strong Heart Study, Stanford University, and the University of Oklahoma.

## L. Michelle Bennett, PhD

Director  
NCI Center for Research Strategy



Dr. L. Michelle Bennett directs NCI's Center for Research Strategy. She has extensive practical experience in promoting collaboration and team-based approaches by bringing together research scientists with diverse backgrounds and expertise to solve complex scientific problems. Dr. Bennett has supported efforts to increase diversity in the biomedical workforce, played a leadership role in launching and building the NIH Stadtman Tenure Track Investigator program, and developed a trans-NIH web presence for the NIH Intramural program. Dr. Bennett is the recipient of many awards, including NIH and Institute Director's Awards, the NCI Women's Scientist Advisors Achievement Award, and the NCI Exceptional Mentor Award.

## Prof. Michele Hu, MBBS, FRCP, PhD

Professor of Clinical Neuroscience and Consultant Neurologist  
Deputy Head of the Division of Clinical Neurology



Dr. Michele Hu is Professor at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Oxford and Honorary Consultant Neurologist at Oxford University Hospitals. She obtained her medical degree from King's College London, completing a PhD in Neuroscience at London University, and her neurology training at the Royal Free, National Hospital London, and Oxford University Hospitals.

Since her appointment as Movement Disorders Neurology Consultant in 2005, she has the advantage of having gained 15 years pragmatic experience looking after Parkinson's and other movement disorders patients, providing a unique insight that can be utilised to full advantage in the delivery of future treatments. She leads the clinical research program on the Oxford Parkinson's Disease Centre Discovery cohort (OPDC; [www.opdc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.opdc.ox.ac.uk)), one of the largest longitudinal cohorts of Parkinson's patients in the world. Her group facilitates translational research in the field of longitudinal cohort studies and biomarkers for early and prodromal Parkinson's disease, with particular focus on REM sleep behaviour disorder (RBD), and how sleep affects neurodegeneration. Other key interests include the delivery of tractable, low cost, digital technology that has a real impact on patient's daily lives, and imaging the human brain from prodromal to established Parkinson's.



The intramural program of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the largest biomedical research complex in the world, had no organized training program for doctoral students until, in 1999, two men, Dr. Harold Varmus, former Director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Michael Gottesman, Deputy Director for Intramural Research, made a decision to change that. Their efforts opened up research opportunities in over 1200 laboratories encompassing nearly every area of biomedical research. In 2000, the concept of NIH-U.K. partnerships was developed to address some of the observed limitations of the American graduate education in biomedical sciences:

- Excessive time to completion of a PhD (7.8 years per National Research Council studies)
  - Limitation of programs to a single university, department or discipline
  - Inadequate preparation for the global nature of contemporary science
    - Limited experience in collaborative research

Chief among these problems is the length of time to PhD program completion which, even at the best universities, has resulted in young scientists emerging to begin their independent research careers at the age of 35 or even later. The awareness of these limitations inspired the vision to develop a more efficient training experience, which incorporated global collaboration and interdisciplinary biomedical research. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were a clear choice for partners, due to their long academic traditions, which include outstanding biomedical science and clinical schools, and previous success working with American students. With their participation, the vision evolved into a doctoral program that enables students to pursue collaborative thesis research with minimal course work and rotations and a completed PhD in an average of 4 years. Scholars have produced an average of 2 first-authored papers prior to graduation, with a total of 950+ overall highly cited publications since inception of the program. Each thesis project is co-mentored by at least two faculty members, one at Oxford or Cambridge and the other at the NIH, and involves laboratory research at both institutions.

Since 2001, more than 230 individuals pursuing PhDs in biomedical research have taken advantage of this unique program. Over 80 scholars in approximately 50 different areas of biomedical research are currently pursuing their doctoral degree. Efforts to differentiate from traditional biomedical training programs have allowed the NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars to enjoy intellectual freedom and flexibility, which has led to increased innovation and collaboration. In addition to the U.K., scholars have had opportunities to carry out portions of their research in China, Germany, Australia, and Africa. The Rhodes Trust, Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, Churchill, Gates and Fulbright Scholarship programs have contributed to individuals seeking their PhDs in biomedical research through this program. In 2006 the program also established a platform for students to pursue a combined MD/PhD and extend the reach of these scholars.

For information about the NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program visit: [www.oxcam.gpp.nih.gov](http://www.oxcam.gpp.nih.gov)

National Institutes of Health  
NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program  
6 North Court, Bldg. 15F1  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892



In 2005, the establishment of the International Biomedical Research Alliance (The Alliance) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization saw the creation of a unique, public-private partnership. This partnership has had an immeasurable positive impact on the NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program.

The Alliance is comprised of a group of dedicated private citizens with the shared aim of training a new generation of top biomedical researchers who are better equipped to investigate human diseases and develop new preventions, treatments, and cures. This group of individuals has been a source of ideas and support for the scholars to complement their bench research with unique educational experiences.

The Alliance organizes and funds several of the major and minor events for the program each year, specifically those designed to bring the scholars and mentors together to interact and exchange ideas and to assist the scholars in their career pathway. The Annual Global Doctoral Partnerships Scientific Research Colloquium, clinical case conferences, candidate recruitment activities, scientific awards, and NIH laboratory scholarships are among the enhancements that would not be possible without the support of The Alliance.

In 2015, the Alliance partnered with the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation to host the Lasker Lessons in Leadership lecture series for trainees and junior faculty at the NIH. The purpose of these lectures is for young scientists to be stimulated by the responsibility and opportunities for leadership in their careers, to learn about leadership and management tools, as well as to provide education on the many career opportunities for science investigators. The Alliance is currently collaborating with the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences to build new student residences that will provide affordable housing alternatives convenient to the NIH campus. The Alliance is working toward creating an endowment for specific aspects of the program and the program as a whole.

For the Alliance, supporting and celebrating this accelerated, individualized, doctoral training program for advancing biomedical research is a national imperative. The best research demands funding the best talent. There is no greater satisfaction than watching our graduates as they continue to make new and exciting discoveries that will lead to a better tomorrow for patients everywhere.

For more information about the Alliance visit: [www.biomedalliance.org](http://www.biomedalliance.org)

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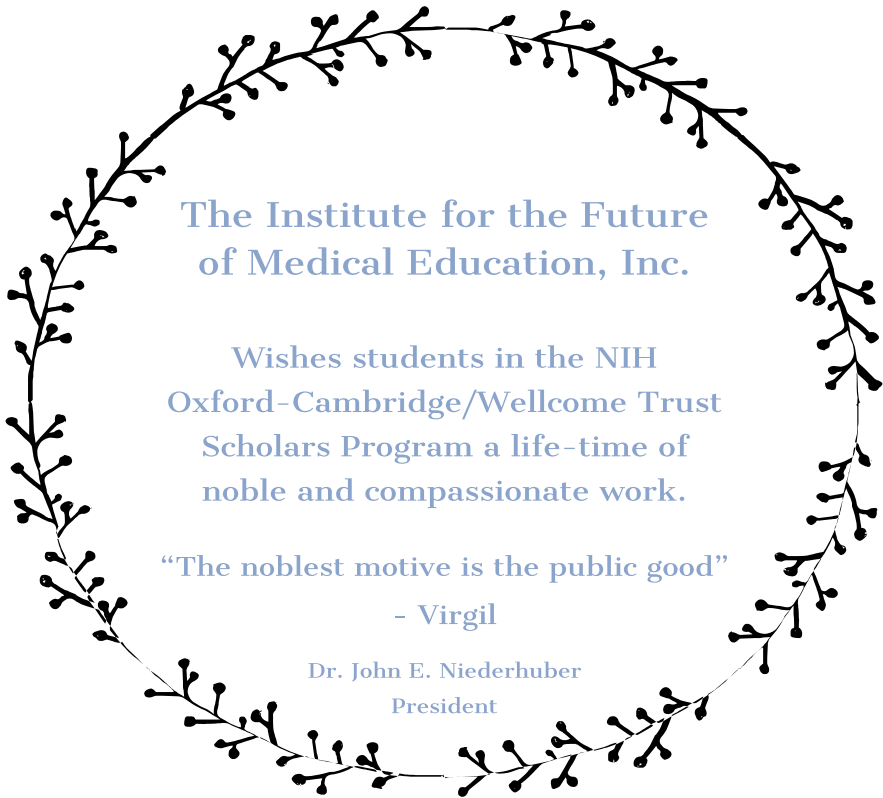
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NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program

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Chief, Tumor Biology Section  
Scientific Director, NIH MD/PhD Partnership Training Program



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to the Scholars Participating in the 2020

**NIH GLOBAL DOCTORAL PARTNERSHIPS RESEARCH WORKSHOP**



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Congratulations to the  
NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Annual  
Workshop 2020

Workshop Planning Committee

for creating an exceptional virtual Workshop

Providing US and foreign businesses and institutions with counseling and services in the areas  
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**We are proud to support the NIH  
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"If you think research is expensive...try disease"-  
Mary Lasker



*Pleased to support the*  
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Research Workshop



MacroGenics is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and developing innovative monoclonal antibody-based therapeutics for the treatment of cancer




## Proud Supporter of the NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program

**WCG** extends its warmest congratulations to all the scholars participating in the 2020 NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships Research Workshop and to the organizers who made it happen.

**WCG** provides solutions for the safety and success of clinical trials.  
To learn more, visit us at [www.wcgclinical.com](http://www.wcgclinical.com).





The Board of Directors of the International Biomedical Research Alliance sends warm congratulations to PhD and MD/PhD Scholars in the NIH Global Doctoral Partnerships who have graduated in 2019-2020.

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.

Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”- Marie Curie

# *Save the Date*

March 30, 2021

## *Lasker Lessons in Leadership*

Cynthia Kenyon, Ph.D.

*Vice President, Aging Research, Calico*