

## Research Reinvestment Fund Awardees

The Research Reinvestment Fund was established to help achieve the Department of Surgery's goal of becoming the premier home for surgical research. The call for proposals for Round 4 funding featured two award types: the Individual Investigator Award, which provides one year of support to junior and early-career investigators for the development of pilot data critical to obtaining extramural funding, and the Unique Opportunity Award, which is a two-year award supporting initiatives involving multi-disciplinary collaborations resulting in novel and high impact research activities. DOS received a record number of faculty submissions and the selection process was extremely competitive. Congratulations are in order to the following investigators:

### Individual Investigator Awards



[Giana Davidson, MD](#), Assistant Professor, General Surgery

This award provides support to improve the health of patients receiving specialized post-acute care following hospitalization. Understanding the post-hospital period is essential for improving healthcare for the increasing proportion of patients requiring skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) following discharge from the hospital. This support will help to build a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort aimed for research and quality improvement initiatives through pilot data collection to create benchmarking standards of care for SNF patients.



[Sara Javid, MD](#), Assistant Professor, General Surgery

This project aims to create an adapted Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) tool to guide breast cancer quality improvement activities, through a collaborative effort among breast cancer patients and surgeons. Through focus groups and online surveys, Dr. Javid will select metrics from validated PROs tools that reflect the quality of life and treatment satisfaction issues most relevant to patients who have recently undergone oncologic breast surgery. The adapted PROs tool will be implemented and evaluated for feasibility across hospitals within the SCOAP hospital network.



[Lena Sibulesky, MD](#), Assistant Professor, Transplant Surgery

Dr. Sibulesky's project will investigate the mechanism of biliary stricture formation (ischemic cholangiopathy/ ischemic type biliary strictures) in donor after cardiac death (DCD) liver allografts. Understanding the molecular mechanism of the stricture formation will allow effective therapies to ameliorate ITBS in liver transplantation. Overcoming the major complication of ITBS will potentially lead to significant expansion in donor livers in an era of increasing organ shortage.

### Unique Opportunity Award



[Rafael Alfonso, MD](#), Research Assistant Professor, General Surgery

This award provides support for the consolidation of a multi-disciplinary group called the Collaborative for Healthcare research in behavior Economics and decision Sciences (CERTAIN CHOICES). This project will: 1) formally establish CERTAIN CHOICES with an initial focus on surgical interventions; 2) create and test tools focused on identifying and changing clinicians' behaviors to improve healthcare delivery, and 3) develop pilot data and research activities to pursue funding opportunities to sustain and grow CERTAIN CHOICES.

The total award for this funding round was \$125,000, and it is anticipated that the results of these exciting projects will result in further funding from external sponsors.