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# UCSF, Stanford win NIH science stimulus awards

San Francisco Business Times - by [Ron Leuty](#)

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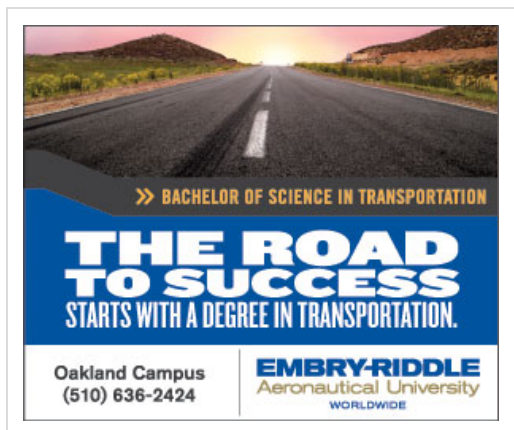
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Seven scientists from the **University of California, San Francisco**, and 13 from **Stanford University** won National Institutes of Health awards designed to push their fields forward or accelerate translational research.

The NIH gave its Pioneer Awards — worth \$2.5 million each over five years — to 18 researchers in all with proposals that could produce a major change in biomedical or behavioral research.

Those projects range from a study by a Stanford group led by associate professor of electrical engineer Krishna Shenoy to look at how the brain prepares and guides arm movements, to an attempt by UCSF's Dr. Nirao Shah, an assistant professor of anatomy, to develop genetic techniques to understand the neural circuits that enable animals to form long-lasting social



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attachments.

Other Pioneer Award winners from Stanford are Dr. Marcus Covert, assistant professor of bioengineering; Dr. Ajay Chawla, assistant professor of endocrinology; and Chang-Zheng Chen, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology.

The NIH's New Innovator Award winners will receive \$1.5 million each over five years. The 52 winners nationally are at an early stage of their careers. Among those projects is one from Stanford assistant professor of neonatal and developmental medical Dr. Anna Penn that looks at the placenta's role in regulating fetal brain development.

Other Stanford winners are Dr. Euan Ashley, assistant professor of cardiovascular medicine; Sarah Heilshorn, assistant professor of materials science and engineering; K.C. Huang, assistant professor of bioengineering; and Justin Sonnenburg, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology.

The UCSF winners are Dr. Daniel Lim, assistant professor of neurological surgery and director of restorative neurosurgery in UCSF's regeneration medicine center; Stavros Lomvardas, assistant professor of anatomy; and Erik Ullian, assistant professor of ophthalmology and physiology.

The NIH's Transformative RO1 Awards, aimed at projects unmatched by any other NIH funding program, includes \$3.9 million to Stanford associate professor of hematology Dr. Calvin Kuo to grow a three-dimensional human intestine, complete with protein scaffolding and differentiated cell types.

Other Stanford T-RO1 winners are Dr. Andrew Hoffman, professor of endocrinology (\$1.8 million); Julie Parsonnet, professor of infectious diseases (\$3.8 million); and Dr. Joseph Wu, assistant professor of medicine and radiology (\$2 million).

UCSF winners consist of a shared \$2.7 million award to Dr. Long-Cheng Li, assistant professor of urology, and Hao Li, professor of biochemistry and biophysics; and Wallace Marshall, associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics.

In all, the NIH granted 55 New Innovator awards, 18 Pioneer awards and 42 T-RO1 awards.

"With these three grant mechanisms, NIH is seeking bold, ground-breaking ideas that can create the scientific paradigms of tomorrow," said Keith Yamamoto, executive vice dean of the UCSF School of Medicine. "They depend upon the quality of the investigator and the new concepts proposed, rather than the acquisition of preliminary data."

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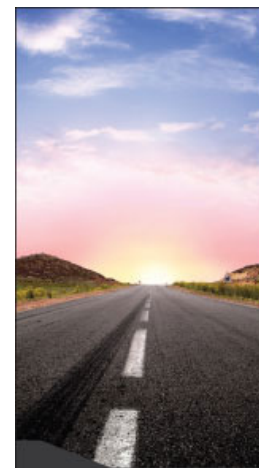
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