Dear BRASS Members and Supporters:

I’m happy to report that BRASS has kicked off 2017 in grand style. With your continued support, in September, the Scholarship Committee was able to select four exceptional prospective BCM M.D./Ph.D students at the BRASS breakfast event. Dr. Matt Baker welcomed Paul Fahey joined board members Peter VanDerlofske, Dr. Jim Bonar, Jay Comeaux and Dr. Matt Baker welcomed prospective BCM M.D./Ph.D students at the BRASS breakfast event. We are grateful and thank Steve Brown for becoming a $10,000 Lifetime Benefactor donor for the second time! BRASS scholars Zachary Criss, Ph.D. and Jarey Wang, M.D./Ph.D. spoke of the importance of this research funding in their respective fields. Everyone agreed once again that Judi and Jack Johnson and the Wintermann Foundation are BRASS SUPER STARS!

As we welcome in 2017, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo (HLS&R) has just drawn to a close and this is a perfect time to thank our Executive Committee Members Don D. Jordan and Ed McMahon. As Rodeo Committee Members, their belief in the BRASS mission has helped BRASS receive much needed critical funding for the year ahead promises to be an exciting one for the BRASS Scholars and BRASS members. It is my pleasure to announce BRASS would again receive $95,000 to support and enhance the BRASS Scholars in their research. The year ahead promises to be an exciting one for the BRASS Scholars and BRASS members. It is my pleasure to announce BRASS would again receive $95,000 to support and enhance the BRASS Scholars in their research.

On September 23, Al Trullenque and Martha Molina once again generously hosted our annual scholars reception where more than 75 BRASS members had the opportunity to visit and celebrate the annual Judi Johnson Day. This celebration is declared as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is celebrated as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is declared as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is celebrated as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is celebrated as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is celebrated as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is celebrated as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is celebrated as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day. This day is celebrated as an annual day and Jack Johnson Day.

The wintermann foundation guarantees that every year, 12 BRASS scholars in the Baylor College of Medicine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will receive $3,000 for funding for their research during years two through five of their graduate studies. BRASS Scholars use this funding for discretionary spending for research supplies, lab equipment and other needed agents to perfect their research process.

Each of these brilliant BRASS Scholars got the school that was their first choice, making it a GREAT Match Day! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! We are honored to have had them both be such an important part of our BRASS family! 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Kristyn Hoffman grew up in Valparaiso, Ind. She graduated from Purdue University in 2012 with a degree in animal sciences, and continued her studies at Purdue’s College of Veterinary Medicine. She earned her D.V.M. this past May. Throughout her undergraduate and professional coursework, she worked on various research projects using animal models of infectious disease and learned the intricacies of how to apply this research to human medicine. Kristyn is now a first-year graduate student in the Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology. She hopes to apply her veterinary degree and what she learns at Baylor College of Medicine to studying animal models of viral, bacterial, or parasitic human pathogens so that we may one day have effective preventative or curative therapies against them. Kristyn’s favorite hobby is traveling, and she has been fortunate enough to travel to Romania and Ecuador for service-based study abroad projects. When she is not traveling, she loves spending time with her two dogs and looks forward to exploring Houston. Kristyn is grateful for the wonderful opportunity to join the BRASS family. She is excited about becoming involved in the community through BRASS events.

Michael Lam was born in Houston, TX, and raised in the burgeoning city of Sugar Land, Texas. He attended Rice University in Houston where he graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in bioengineering with distinction in research and creative works. During college, he was under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Sah Sam, whose work focuses on enhancing and re-engineering adeno-associated virus for improved cellular targeting in the context of heart disease such as a myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease. Michael is currently a first-year graduate student in the M.D./Ph.D. program and is part of the Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine Program. He is interested in cancer immunotherapy – leveraging immune cells to target hematological and solid malignancies and therefore impacting future treatments for these cancers. Michael has also had clinical experience through his clinical rotations in internal medicine, surgery, and neurology, and he hopes to specialize in hematology/oncology in the future.

Patrick Hunt grew up in Plano, TX with his parents and 10 siblings. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin as a member of the Dean’s Scholars program. During his time in Austin, he conducted research in evolutionary biology as well as viral genetics. After graduation, he enrolled in the M.D.-Ph.D. program at Baylor College of Medicine, where he completed clinical rotations in internal medicine, neurology and surgery before beginning graduate school. Patrick is a member of the Molecular and Human Genetics graduate program at Baylor College of Medicine and is interested in studying neurodevelopment and neurodegeneration. He is also interested in developing an advocate for those with mental health concerns. Outside of school, Patrick loves to run and spends most of his time training for long distance races. He also enjoys swimming as well as reading. He is honored to join the BRASS family and is very excited about becoming more involved with BRASS events, especially the Brain Lab.