

For immediate release
June 14, 2019

IRVING, TX and WILLIAMSTOWN, MA:

The Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF) and AFFIRM Research announced today the recipients of their first round of firearm injury prevention research grants.

The organizations announced that they have co-funded two innovative, mentored research grants to develop health-focused, non-partisan solutions to the firearm injury epidemic.

Firearm injury is an American epidemic. Research and public health help solve epidemics. AFFIRM and EMF recognize that the federal government has consistently underfunded firearm injury prevention research. The grants announced today are a first collaboration between AFFIRM and EMF to jumpstart the science of firearm injury prevention, and to get high-quality evidence into the hands of doctors and nurses.

These grants, which match junior and senior researchers, also address the dearth of researchers with expertise in this issue.

The first grant was awarded to Mr. Henry Schwimmer, a medical student at Emory University. With this \$5,000 mentored research grant, titled “**Rural Emergency Department Firearm Assessment, Screening, and Treatment (FAST) Trial**” Mr. Schwimmer and his mentors will work to develop and expand effective screening tools and tailored interventions to reduce risk among at-risk patients in rural emergency departments.

The second grant was awarded to Dr. Kristen Mueller, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Washington University-St. Louis. With this two-year \$150,000 career development grant, titled “**Firearm Injuries and Recidivism at St. Louis Level I Trauma Hospitals**,” Dr. Mueller and her mentors will estimate the region-wide characteristics of patients with firearm injuries who present to Level I trauma hospitals for acute medical care. They also plan to help identify patients at highest risk for repeat injury through development of novel predictive modeling of firearm injury recidivism.

Dr. Megan Ranney, Chief Research Officer of AFFIRM, says “These grants are a critical step in jump-starting the field of evidence-based firearm injury prevention. We look forward to seeing quick results and helping to put good research into practice.”

Dr. Emmy Betz, Chair of AFFIRM’s Research Council, adds “It’s especially exciting to be able to support newer researchers so that we can expand the field of professionals working to prevent firearm injuries and deaths.”

Dr. Stephen H. Anderson, MD, FACEP, Chair of the EMF Board of Trustees states, “I believe we can do more to keep firearms out of the hands of at risk people in their moments of highest

risk. Determining who those are, and what interventions actually impact that critical moment, is what research will tell us. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of these projects and the accomplishments of these researchers.”

AFFIRM (American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine, <https://affirmresearch.org/>), a non-partisan non-profit that represents the collective will of medicine, is creating a cure for the firearm epidemic. As healthcare providers, we see the daily toll of gun violence. We also know that it doesn't have to be this way. We are solving gun violence through research, innovation, and evidence-based practice.

Partner Organizations include: American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, American College of Physicians, Annals of Internal Medicine, American College of Emergency Physicians, Massachusetts Medical Society, Emergency Nurses Association, Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic (SAFE), Emergency Medicine Residents' Association, American Academy of Emergency Medicine, American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association, American Medical Women's Society, American Academy of Pediatrics, National Medical Association, American Association of Suicidology, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Psychiatric Association

For media inquiries, please contact us by email at info@affirmresearch.org or by phone at (413) 212-8654.

The Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF, <https://www.emfoundation.org/>) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1972 by visionary leaders of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). EMF supports scientifically rigorous research and education that improves the care of the acutely ill and injured. To date, EMF has awarded more than \$16 million in research grants to advance emergency medicine science and health policy.