

2017 Award Recipients

The research we celebrate, with the recipients below, has generated paradigm-changing discoveries in epilepsy, fundamental insights in multiple sclerosis, and pioneering breakthroughs in pain, to name a few of the transformative advances conceived by these luminaries. We honor those researchers and pay tribute to all those who play a role in the search for cures for brain disease, from mentors to colleagues to those just starting out on their journey.

Alliance Awards: Founders Award

Sponsored by the American Academy of Neurology and endowed by the former American Academy of Neurology Alliance



**Recipient: Emer McGrath, MB, BCh
Boston, MA**

Thank You Statement: *I would like to acknowledge the strong support of my mentor, Dr. Sudha Seshadri, and the generous contribution of the participants in the Framingham Heart Study.*

Why the Recipient Was Chosen: Dr. McGrath was selected as this year's Founders Award recipient for her important work investigating the link between vascular disease, hypertension, and dementia. Though this link has been appreciated for some time, pathological details and mechanisms of disease remain unclear. Furthermore, methodologies of prior studies have limitations and conflicting findings. In this report, Dr. McGrath and her colleagues measured mid- and late-life blood pressures and the trajectory of blood pressure from mid- to late-life in a community-based cohort of all-cause dementia and Alzheimer's disease patients. They found an association between both elevated mid-life blood pressure as well as a step-wise increase in risk with higher trajectories. This study provides interesting data for larger clinical trials and proposes an important modifiable risk factor for the development of age-related cognitive decline.