

*The DCM award gave me the opportunity to attend my first national academic conference and present my first poster. It helped me take the first steps towards an academic career. Furthermore, it allowed me to meet experienced scholars in my field of interest.*

Amir Toussi, MD (DCM Award Recipient 2012)

*"I'm an MD/PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh. For the past 5 years I've worked with Dr. Anne Newman, a mentor any student would be lucky to have. She opened my eyes to the world of research on aging and longevity. The first abstract we wrote together was the first I'd ever submitted to a conference. It was the 2009 American Geriatrics Society conference. The DCM award allowed me to attend without the financial burden which truly limits most students. As my first conference, I didn't exactly know what to expect at AGS. I met several investigators from other institutions that I'd collaborated with but never seen face to face. I conversed with leaders in our field, who actually seemed interested in my work. I learned and brought new ideas back to Pitt. Fortunately, I also won the Presidential Poster Award in Epidemiology. This convinced me that aging research was not only interesting but could be a solid foundation for a fruitful career. Since then I have attended AGS annually with support from the DCM award. In 2011 I was honored with the Scientist in Training Research Award for best abstract submitted by a pre-doctoral student. I'm extremely grateful to the Western PA Geriatrics Society and the DCM award - they have helped launch my career. If there was ever an award in our field to maintain to help students, this is it."*

Jason Sanders, PhD (2010 / 2012 Recipient)

*Being a recipient of the DCM Award helped me attend my first geriatrics-related conference and strengthened my desire to work in the field of geriatrics from both clinical and research perspectives. Attending the regional Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine Conference prior to the AGS Annual Conference was a wonderful way for me to be introduced to geriatrics leaders here in the Pittsburgh area. At the AGS Annual Conference, I had the opportunity to present my own research and interacted with leaders in the field. I also networked with other trainees interested in geriatrics-related careers.*

Lolita Nidadavolu (2011 and 2013 recipient)