# AFFIRM

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## Emergency Medicine Foundation and AFFIRM Announce Recipients of First Firearm Injury Prevention Research Grants

**IRVING, TX and WILLIAMSTOWN, MA, June 20, 2019 -** 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."

**About AFFIRM:**
AFFIRM is the nation's leading non-profit fully dedicated to ending the American firearm injury epidemic using the public health approach. We are a nonpartisan network of healthcare professionals, public health experts, and researchers who aim to prevent firearm injury through research, innovation, and evidence-based practice. We are gun owners and non-gun owners committed to reducing the rate of firearm injuries and deaths. Since our founding in 2017, AFFIRM enables and funds transformative, high-impact innovations to reduce firearm injury in the United States. For more information, please visit www.affirmresearch.org.

**About The Emergency Medicine Foundation:**
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.

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