

Last month we celebrated the investiture of four INI members to named chairs and professorships.

- Donna Hammond, Roy J. Carver Chair in Neuroscience
- Jake Michaelson, Roy J. Carver Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- Matt Potthoff, Roy J. Carver Professor of Neuroscience and Pharmacology
- Kumar Narayanan, Juanita J. Bartlett Professor



All four of these colleagues are tremendously accomplished scholars, teachers and mentors. They represent some of the most cutting-edge and vital work being done in the INI. The awards, which are made possible through philanthropic support, provide resources with which they can be creative and take scientific risks. With a flexible funding source not tied to the specific aims of any grant, our faculty may follow their creativity down uncharted paths to discovery.

When we launched the Iowa Neuroscience Institute, we specified that part of the transformational gift from the Carver Trust would support seven Carver Chairs and four Carver Professorships. To date we have filled five of those 11 positions. In the years since, we've also connected with other donors who see the value of this type of investment. For donors, their gift becomes personal when they are supporting the work of a scientist whose research is meaningful to their family.

For example, Kumar's dedication to finding the causes of and developing treatments for neurodegenerative disease inspired Norm and Barb Johnson to endow a professorship in honor of Barb's mother, Juanita J. Bartlett, who battled Alzheimer's disease. They know that their investment in research will make a difference for other families, and they value Kumar's commitment to both his patients and his research.

We have worked creatively with the UI Center for Advancement to use this model of endowment for additional research support, such as the Kwak-Ferguson Fellowship, awarded annually to an upper-level graduate student working in the area of neurodegenerative diseases. Earlier this month Don Timm, who endowed the fellowship in memory of his mentor and his aunt, visited campus and had the chance to have lunch with three of the four recipients of this award and hear about their ongoing work.



This will continue to be a priority for the INI going forward as we explore every avenue to support our faculty members in their quest to find the causes of — and preventions, treatments, and cures for — the many diseases that affect the brain and nervous system.

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