

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

School of Medicine Columbia

University of South Carolina

Research Newsletter

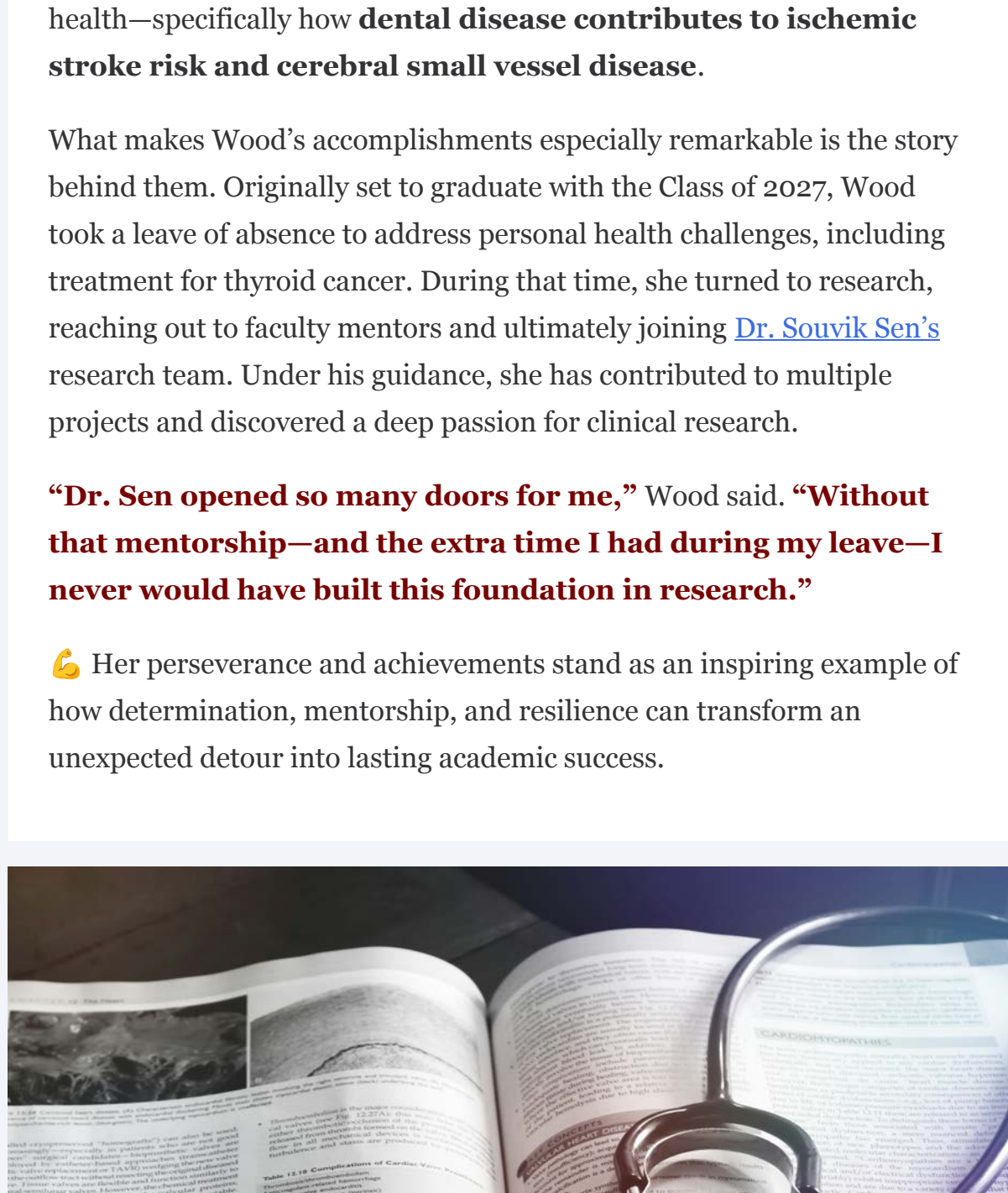
By SOMC Office of Research • Nov 04, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 5.5 mins...1392 words

👋 Welcome to the third edition of the Research Roundup where we share important updates and research news to keep you in the know.

In this edition, learn about high dollar funding opportunities, conferences & seminars on today's hot topic (AI), and check out recent publications from our medical students and Prisma internal medicine residents!

Research Spotlight



Turning Setbacks into Success—Medical Student's Work Gains National Attention

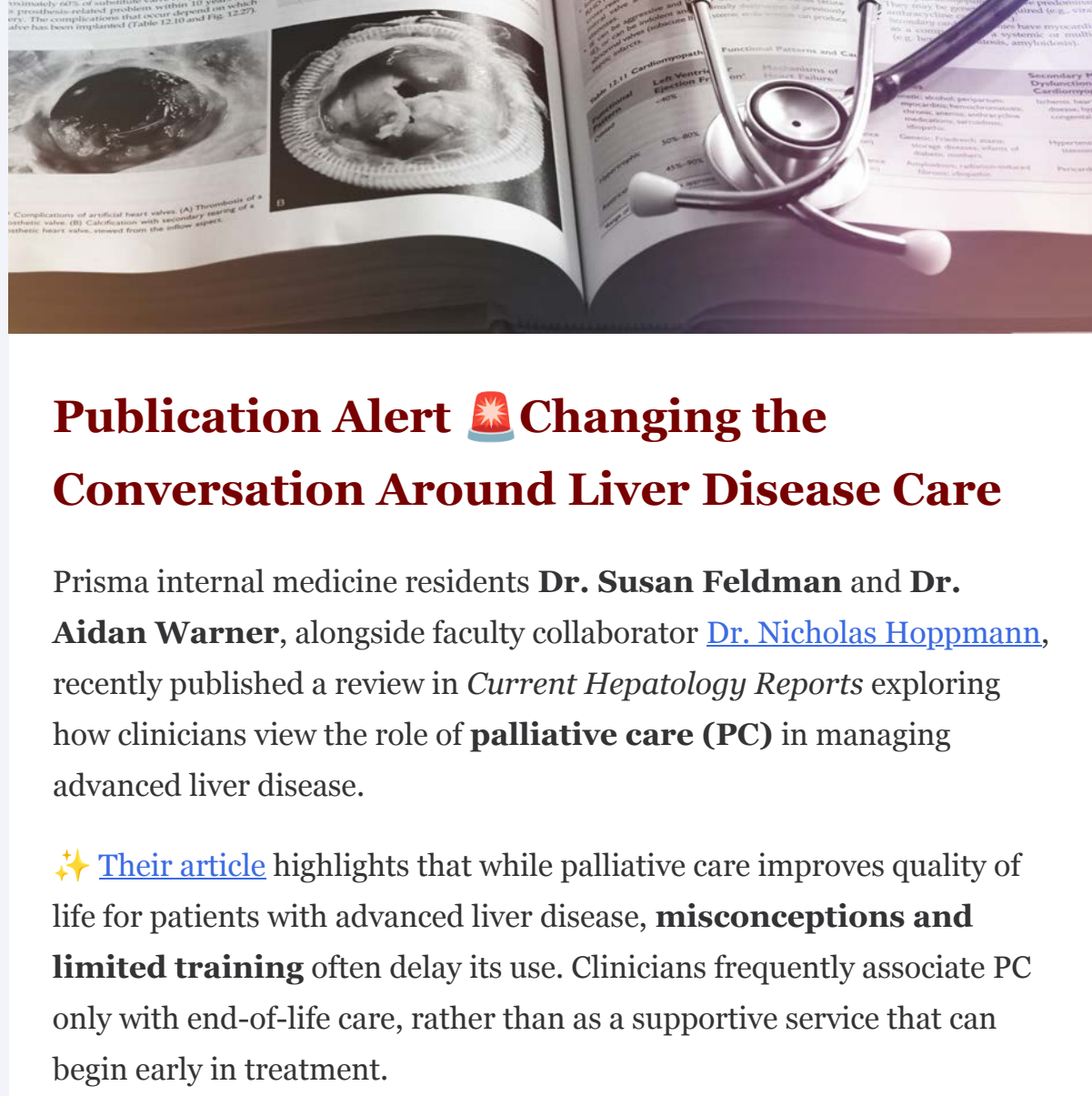
👉

Second-year medical student **Stefanie Wood** has had an extraordinary year of research success, with **seven publications in 2025**, including **two papers selected for press release by the [American Academy of Neurology](#)** this October. The studies, soon to appear in *Neurology Open Access*, explore the connection between oral health and brain health—specifically how **dental disease contributes to ischemic stroke risk and cerebral small vessel disease**.

What makes Wood's accomplishments especially remarkable is the story behind them. Originally set to graduate with the Class of 2027, Wood took a leave of absence to address personal health challenges, including treatment for thyroid cancer. During that time, she turned to research, reaching out to faculty mentors and ultimately joining [Dr. Souvik Sen's](#) research team. Under his guidance, she has contributed to multiple projects and discovered a deep passion for clinical research.

“Dr. Sen opened so many doors for me,” Wood said. **“Without that mentorship—and the extra time I had during my leave—I never would have built this foundation in research.”**

👉 Her perseverance and achievements stand as an inspiring example of how determination, mentorship, and resilience can transform an unexpected detour into lasting academic success.



Publication Alert 📰 Changing the Conversation Around Liver Disease Care

Prisma internal medicine residents **Dr. Susan Feldman** and **Dr. Aidan Warner**, alongside faculty collaborator [Dr. Nicholas Hoppmann](#), recently published a review in *Current Hepatology Reports* exploring how clinicians view the role of **palliative care (PC)** in managing advanced liver disease.

🌟 [Their article](#) highlights that while palliative care improves quality of life for patients with advanced liver disease, **misconceptions and limited training** often delay its use. Clinicians frequently associate PC only with end-of-life care, rather than as a supportive service that can begin early in treatment.

The authors emphasize two key steps to improve care:

- **expanding medical education on palliative care** 🎓
- **strengthening collaboration between hepatology and PC teams** 🤝

By reframing how clinicians think about palliative care, their work points toward a more compassionate, patient-centered approach to treating advanced liver disease.

Resources

Find the Perfect Journal: Introducing the New *Publishing Your Research Guide* 📖

🔍 Searching for a reputable journal to publish your research? The [SOM Library](#) now offers a subject guide to help you navigate the publishing landscape with confidence.

The new guide includes:

- Resources for finding journal metrics and rankings by subject area.
- Publisher sites that will match your abstract to potential journals.
- Vetted lists of journals included in major databases.
- Recommendations for evaluating the quality of the journal.

👉 Ready to make informed decisions about where to publish? Explore the [new guide](#) today!

Funding Opportunities



Next Round of Funding Opportunities from American Cancer Society Now Open

🏆

The next round of **American Cancer Society (ACS)** funding opportunities is now accepting applications!

📅 Submissions are due **December 1, 2025**, with award notifications expected in **August 2026**.

🏛️ ACS funds cancer research across the cancer continuum—basic science, preclinical research, and clinical research—in [six research priorities](#).

Grant mechanisms vary with the stage of career:

Independent Investigators:

👉 [Discovery Boost](#) – For investigators at any career stage; for exploratory research or pilot high-risk/high-reward research; funding—2 years, up to \$297K.

👉 [Mission Boost](#) – For investigators at any career stage; to fund transition of patient-focused research to accelerate clinical impact; funding—up to 3.5 years of multi-stage funding.

👉 [Research Scholar Grant](#) – Only for investigators within the first 10 years of initial independent research career or full-time faculty appointment; funding—up to 4 years, \$215K/year.

Mentored Research Grants:

👉 [Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) – For investigators who are within 4 years of receiving a doctoral degree; funding—progressive stipends of \$66K, \$68K, and \$70K for up to 3 years.

👉 [Clinician Scientist Development Grant](#) – For full-time faculty with clinical roles pursuing mentored research training; funding—3–5 years, \$135K/year.

All applications must go through [USCERA](#) and be submitted via Proposal Central.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund Announces Next Gen Pregnancy Initiative

The **Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF)** has announced its [Next Gen Pregnancy Initiative](#), a refreshed funding opportunity in reproductive sciences. **This program supports research in the following areas:**

- 👉 normal pregnancy mechanisms
- 👉 pre-eclampsia
- 👉 pre-term birth
- 👉 pregnancy loss

BWF especially encourages proposals that explore **maternal-fetal interactions, sub-typing adverse outcomes, or linking animal models to clinical data**. Applications from or focused on researchers who are **historically underrepresented in the biomedical sciences** are strongly encouraged.

👉 Each award provides **\$500,000 over four years**, with **no indirect costs allowed**.

📅 Applications are due **December 4, 2025, by 3:00 p.m.**, with **award notification by May 31, 2026**, and a **start date of October 1, 2026**.

New ARPA-H Funding Opportunity: Genetic Medicines & Manufacturing Innovation 💡

The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) has announced a new research and development funding opportunity through its **Genetic Medicines and Individualized Manufacturing for Everyone (GIVE)** program.

The [GIVE program](#) aims to position the U.S. as a leader in advanced manufacturing and quality control methods for next-generation RNA-based cancer therapies, cell therapies, and gene-editing technologies.

Under **Notice ID: [ARPA-H-SOI-25-129](#)**, ARPA-H will solicit proposals in two key focus areas:

- **Automated RNA manufacturing technologies** 🧬
- **Integrated quality control platforms** ⚙️

The solicitation includes details on eligibility, key dates and deadlines 📅, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria for applicants.

Pilot Funding Available through Community Engaged Scholars Program

The [SC Clinical & Translational Research Institute \(SCTR\)](#) is accepting applications for the **Community Engaged Scholars Program**, which supports community—academic teams conducting projects that improve health outcomes across South Carolina.

👥 **Eligibility:** Teams must include **at least one Academic Partner** (Assistant Professor or higher, affiliated with a South Carolina university) and **one Community Partner**.

- 👉 Participants can receive **up to \$10,000** in pilot funds 🏆
- 📅 **Letters of Intent due:** December 1, 2025 (noon)
- 👉 Learn more [here](#).

👉 Not seeing any funding opportunities that apply to you? 🏆

- 👉 Check out the [Limited Submissions page](#) for the latest listing of limited funding opportunities.

Upcoming Conferences & Events

Register Now for the AI Ethics in Medicine and Law Symposium!

Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming the way we practice medicine and law! This full-day symposium will dive into the ethical, legal, and professional challenges—and opportunities—of AI in today's world.

📅 [Friday, January 9](#)

🕒 9:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

📍 Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Open to USC School of Medicine and School of Law students, faculty, clinicians, and practicing professionals.

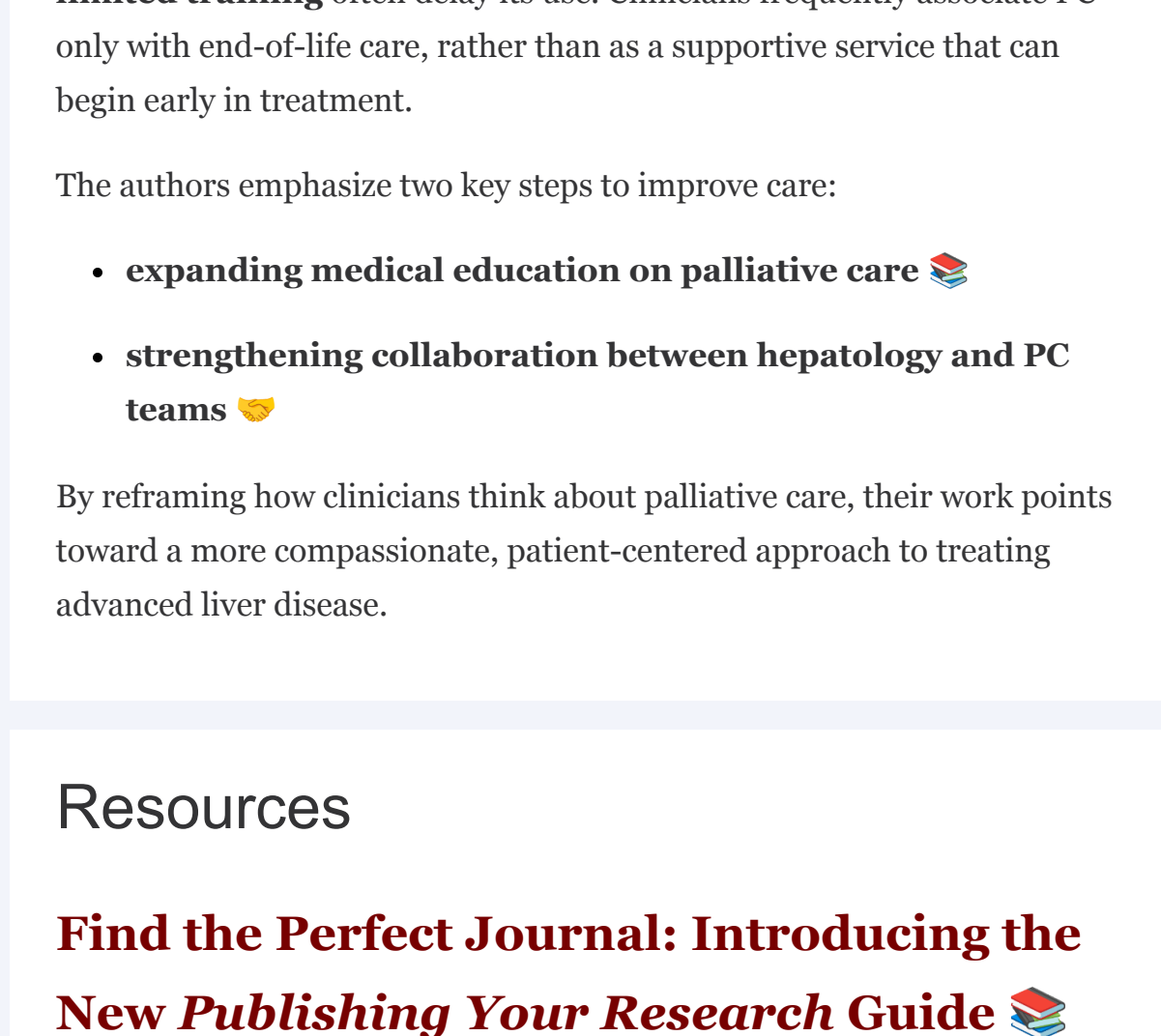
🎉 **Free lunch for the first 100 who register!**

👉 Register [here](#).

📄 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™ and 6 CLE credits available

📧 For questions contact: Kasie Roark at kroark@uscmcd.sc.edu

Refine Your Skills



ClinTrUSC Professional Development Core Research Seminar Series

Save the date for the next [ClinTrUSC](#) seminar!

Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Sensing and Diagnosis Core

📅 **Monday, December 1**

🕒 **11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.**

This seminar will highlight the work of the [Big Data Health Science Center AI for Sensing and Diagnosis Core](#).

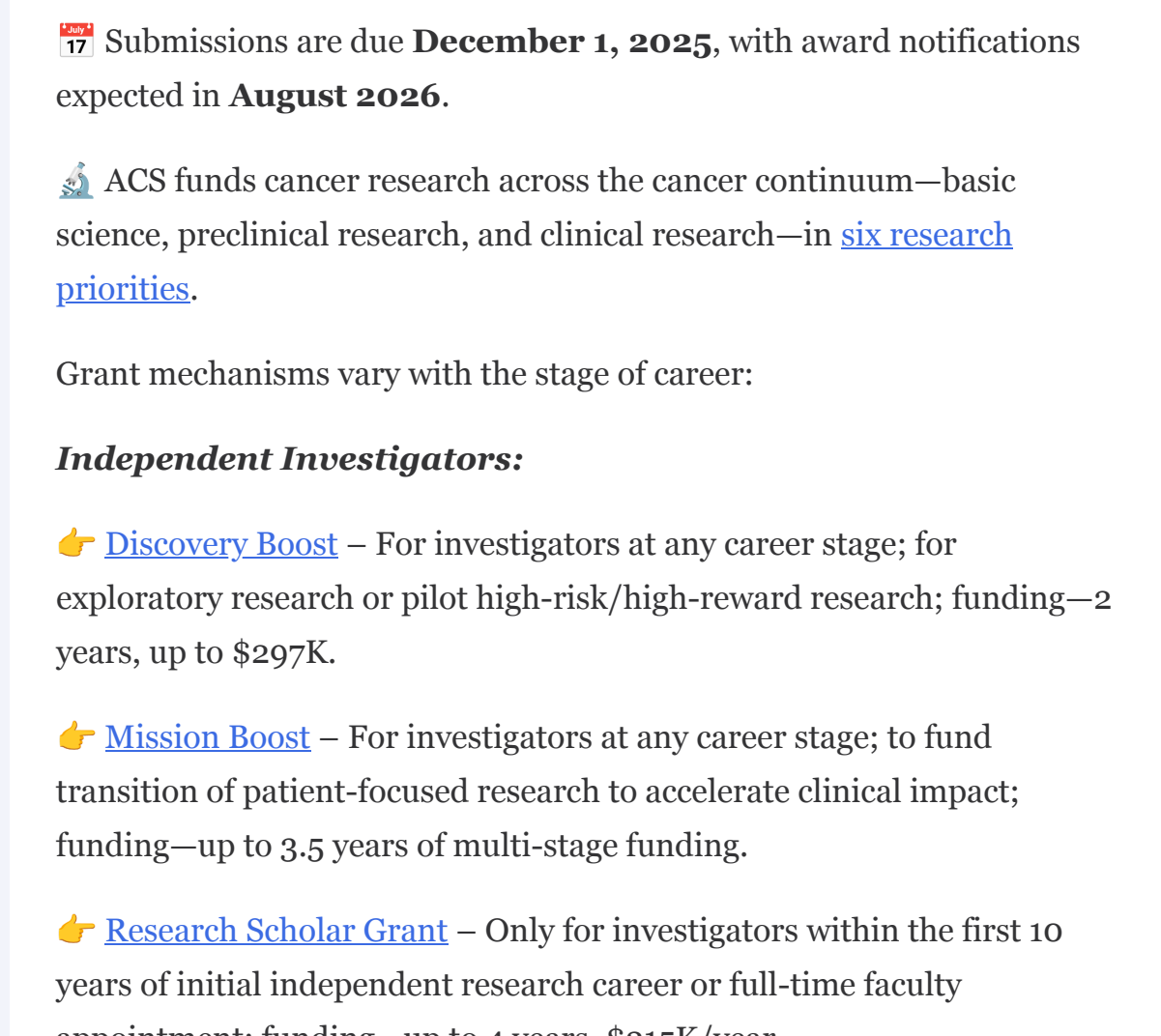
🎤 **Featured Speakers:**

Homayoun Valafar, PhD – Professor and Chair, CSE, USC

Qian Wang, PhD – Distinguished Professor and Chair, CAS, USC

👉 Register [here](#).

Action Items



Brain Health Investigators - We Need Your Input!

🧠 If you are an **Investigator currently engaged in on-going research related to brain health, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, aging, or caregiving**, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below. This includes human subject as well as laboratory and benchmark sciences.

The goal of this questionnaire is to **create a snapshot of USC Research in this field** and eventually a web-based Dashboard and Menuboard (to feature in clinics) to help recruit and feature this important research.

👉 Please complete the questionnaire [here](#).

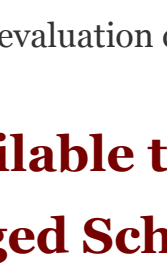
Thank you for reading this month's issue of the *Research Roundup*! We hope you found it helpful. If you have any suggestions for future issues or would like to share research news or opportunities, please let us know!

Were you forwarded this email and want to subscribe to future editions? Contact us, and we'd be happy to add you to our mailing list!

Contact: Michal Smith
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Your responses are anonymous