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**DARRELL K ROYAL**  
R E S E A R C H F U N D  
*for ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE*

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Researcher spotlight: Dr. Plattner and Dr. Durakoglugil to complete final year of DKR fund grant

**Austin, March 1, 2017:** Drs. Murat Plattner and Florian Durakoglugil of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX are set to submit their third-year research report and findings to The Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease by December 2017. Both doctors were recipients of the 2014 DKR Fund Research Grant, receiving \$165,000 to fund their project, "NMDA receptor regulation in Alzheimer's and memory enhancement."

"By advancing our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying learning & memory processes and identifying the crucial parts of the machinery that malfunction in Alzheimer's disease, we hope to meaningfully contribute towards the development of an efficient treatment," states Dr. Plattner. "Our recent discovery of a small molecule that can improve memory formation in rodents represents a first step in the right direction and strongly encourages me to further pursue this research. With the generous support of the Darrell K Royal Fund for Alzheimer's Disease, we were able to further study in detail this small molecule and its role in Alzheimer's disease. This research will shed new light onto the causes of memory deficits and may uncover novel candidate targets for the development of memory enhancing drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease."

Dr. Plattner holds a doctorate in neurosciences from the University College of London. He is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at UTSW, where he investigates molecular mechanisms underlying learning and memory and their dysfunction in neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Durakoglugil received his M.D. and Ph.D. in Neuropharmacology from Hacettepe University Medical School in Ankara, Turkey. He completed part of his Ph.D. program and his postdoctoral studies as a British Council Scholar at The Neurosciences Institute in Dundee, Scotland. He is an Assistant Professor of Molecular Genetics at UTSW.

**About the Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease**

Established in 2012, the Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease is building a legacy of lasting significance in honor of a man whose contributions to the lives of so many cannot be measured. The DKR Fund is taking a lead in providing a high profile and increased national awareness of Alzheimer's disease (AD), as well as Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and related diseases. With no cure or drugs currently available to alter the course of these diseases, the DKR Fund is helping advance the pace of research by funding researchers in the state of Texas. Coach Royal's legacy continues to give a voice and face to a disease that has too long been hidden behind closed doors. For more information, visit [www.dkrfund.org](http://www.dkrfund.org)