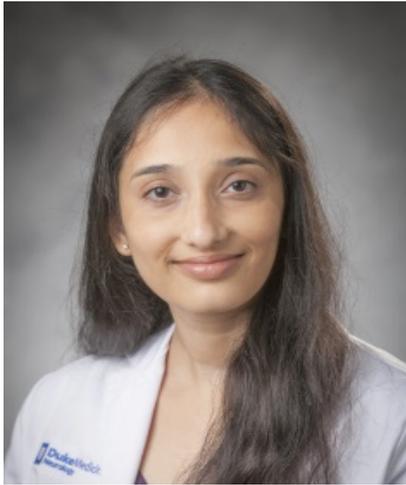


Dr. Shruti Raja Receives AANEM Foundation's Clinical Research Fellowship Award in Autoimmune Neuromuscular Disorders

11/14/17



The AANEM Foundation was pleased to select Dr. Shruti Raja as the recipient of the Clinical Research Fellowship Award in Autoimmune Neuromuscular Disorders for 2017. Dr. Raja, a board-certified neurologist who is currently a Medical Instructor

in Neurology at Duke University Medical Center, is using this funding to validate a new outcome measure in Lambert Eaton myasthenia (LEM) and complete a rigorous didactic training program appropriate to her interest in outcome measure development.

Dr. Raja's research objective is to validate that the Triple Timed-Up-and-Go test (3TUG) test can be used as a measure of disease severity in patients with LEM. This walking test targets the muscle groups most associated with LEM disability, thereby making it a relevant clinical measure of severity in this condition. A pivotal clinical trial of 3,4-diaminopyridine free base (DAP) in the US used the 3TUG test as the primary outcome.

"We will use existing data from a completed pivotal trial of DAP to correlate 3TUG times with patient and clinician reported outcomes and objective electrophysiologic assessments of neuromuscular function," said Dr. Raja. "We hypothesize that 3TUG lap times will correlate with other measures of disease severity and have the potential to be a useful tool for

assessing treatment response in the clinic."

Dr. Raja is pursuing subspecialty training in neuromuscular disease, clinical research and neurology clinical drug development.

"I am working towards my ultimate goal of becoming an independent researcher focused on development of innovative and practical clinical assessment tools that can be used in the clinic and in clinical trials to evaluate the efficacy of existing and novel therapeutics for patients with neuromuscular disease," said Dr. Raja.

"I am very enthusiastic about Shruti's strong potential as a young clinical investigator to develop, execute, and analyze clinical trials in neuromuscular disorders. She has the background, support, and resources to successfully conduct her proposed project for the AANEM Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship in Autoimmune Neuromuscular Disorders," said Dr. Vern C. Juel, Division Chief for Neuromuscular Disorders at Duke University Medical Center.

Dr. Raja's research efforts as part of the fellowship award began on July 1, 2017, and will continue through June 30, 2018. Dr. Raja will present the findings of this research at the AANEM Annual Meeting in Washington, DC in October 2018.

For more information, view the Clinical Research Fellowship page on the AANEM Foundation website and to help fund future fellowships, please consider making a donation to the AANEM Foundation. Dr. Raja's fellowship was made possible by a grant from Baxalta US Inc., now part of Shire.

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