



American Brain Tumor Association

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American Brain Tumor Association Names Alexander Ksendzovsky Outstanding 2009 Medical Student

Ksendzovsky Receives Lucien Rubenstein Award



Alexander Ksendzovsky

Des Plaines, Ill. (Jan. 20, 2009) – The American Brain Tumor Association has announced that Alexander Ksendzovsky, a third-year medical student at the Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago, is the 2009 Lucien Rubenstein Award recipient. The work of Ksendzovsky, one of 10 2009 American Brain Tumor Medical Student Summer Fellows, was deemed “outstanding” by ABTA’s distinguished Scientific Advisory Council.

Ksendzovsky’s research focused on identifying immunosuppressive cytokines in glioblastoma and their mechanisms of immunosuppression in an attempt to optimize a tumor vaccine that may trigger the body’s immune system to

fight malignant brain tumors.

Ksendzovsky worked under the direction of neurosurgeon Roberta P. Glick, MD, at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Chicago. She is a professor neurosurgery at Rush University Medical Center and professor of anatomy and cell biology at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Glick has been studying brain tumor immunotherapy for 20 years, and she is a recognized authority in this medical research field. She is a 1978 graduate of the Chicago Medical School.

Over the summer, in collaboration with Douglas Feinstein, PhD, professor in the Department of Neuro-Anesthesia at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Ksendzovsky evaluated which cytokines released by gliomas are immunosuppressive, how they are released, and their effects on T-cells and immunity.

Dr. Feinstein research focuses on multiple sclerosis, glioblastoma and PPAR – gamma drugs. He is also the president of the American Society for Neurochemistry.

“We are proud of the American Brain Tumor Association’s historical support of young, talented researchers working to improve brain tumor diagnostics and treatment, said ABTA Executive Director Elizabeth Wilson. “We commend Mr. Ksendzovsky for his outstanding work and look forward to his having a long and distinguished career of significant contributions to brain tumor research.”

Each year, the American Brain Tumor Association offers a select group of medical students the opportunity to spend eight-to-10 weeks in a brain tumor research laboratory. Based on reports that each student is required to submit at the end of their summer internship, an outstanding student is selected to receive the Lucien Rubenstein Award. The award is named in honor of Dr. Lucien J. Rubinstein, a professor of neuropathology at the University of Virginia and a world-renowned brain tumor researcher. As part of the award, the outstanding student receives \$1,000 in addition to his or her \$3,000 summer internship stipend.

For more information on the American Brain Tumor Association’s annual Research Award Program, please visit www.abta.org and click “Research Progress.”

For 37 years, the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) has provided critical funding to researchers working toward breakthroughs in brain tumor diagnosis, treatment and care, with the ultimate goal of finding a cure. The ABTA is also the recognized resource for up-to-date information and compassionate support for the brain tumor patients, families and caregivers who are living with this disease. For more information, visit the ABTA Web site at www.abta.org, or call 1-800-886-2282.