



2022

**ESCALATOR AWARDS
FINAL REPORT**

The 2022 Escalator Awards by the Numbers



70

Total 2022
applicants

25

Countries represented
by 2022 applicants

9

Total 2022 Winners

\$273,000

Total Dollars
Awarded in 2022

Program Benefits



Financial Support

- Research winners: \$50,000
- Mentor winners: \$25,000
- Mentee winners: \$10,000
- Kickstarter winners \$3,000



Mentorship

- 4 quarterly online mentorship meetings over the 12-month cycle



Networking & Professional Development Opportunities

- Quarterly mentorship meetings attended by senior experts in the field
- Ongoing promotion of winners & their work product through the Women as One network



2022 Research Award Winners

The four 2022 Research Award winners were selected from a worldwide pool of applicants. In addition to ongoing mentorship, each winner received financial support in the amount of \$50,000, to be applied towards a research project of their choosing.



Please click on the headshot of each winner for full bio, detailed project description and additional information.



Dr. Rebecca Cogswell
USA

Research overview

Plans to comprehensively define the clinical significance of Heart Failure-associated muscle wasting and to elucidate new potential areas for targeted intervention in the broader HF population.



Dr. Amber Johnson
USA

Research overview

The proposed study will use a patient-centered approach to CVD self-care in an at-risk patient population. This project will provide the essential community-based collaboration to guide the development of a new technological intervention and a future pilot trial to be conducted as part of my future work. This assets-based approach will serve as a use-case for intervention development among marginalized, impoverished communities which have previously been under-evaluated.



2022 Research Award Winners

Please click on the headshot of each winner for full bio, detailed project description and additional information.



Dr. Eylem Levelt
United Kingdom

Research overview

This longitudinal study of women with GDM, pre-eclampsia, and healthy pregnancies aims to discover if women with gestational diabetes or preeclampsia show cardiac alterations. A secondary goal is to determine myocardial physiological responses to a healthy third-trimester pregnancy.



Dr. Wendy Tsang
Canada

Research overview

This study examines the risks of non-cardiac surgery in the ACHD population, with project goals to determine the incidence of perioperative mortality and serious 30-day postoperative complications after non-cardiac surgery in ACHD patients compared to age-, sex-, surgery-, and surgery-year matched non-ACHD controls, and develop a novel prognostic risk score for perioperative mortality and serious 30-day postoperative complications in ACHD patients after non-cardiac surgery.

2022 Mentor Match Award Winners

The four 2022 Mentor Match Award winners were selected from a worldwide pool of applicants. Women as One paired mentor and mentee winners, and together each pair was tasked with developing a research, quality improvement or educational project of their own design and implementing it over the 12-month award cycle. In addition to ongoing mentorship, Mentor winners were awarded \$25,000 and Mentees \$10,000.

Please click on the headshot of each winner for full bio, detailed project description and additional information.



Dr. Alessia Gimelli (Mentor)
Italy



Dr. Suvasini Lakshmanan (Mentee)
United States

Match Outcomes:

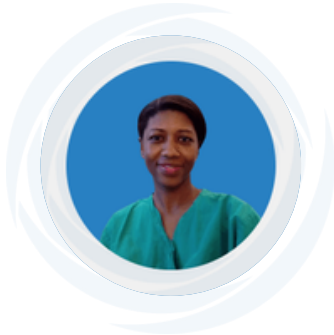
- Collaborations on research and educational content with a focus on Imaging and Prevention
- Research development: Examining the trends in referral for MPI among men and women over last 3 decades
- Continued focus on creating educational opportunities in CV Imaging for women fellows in training
- Published two research articles together: a systematic review focused on cancer risk in ACHD patients and a study of gender differences in referral patterns for CAD testing

2022 Mentor Match Award Winners

Please click on the headshot of each winner for full bio, detailed project description and additional information.



Dr. Heather Gornik (Mentor)
United States



Dr. Irina Mbanze (Mentee)
Mozambique

Match Outcomes:

Optimizing Cardiology Clinical Services at the Maputo Central Hospital

Project deliverables include:

- Revisit structure of the cardiology service/ patient access
- Provide education and training in cardiology for nurses
- Develop a registry to record patient data, monitor patient outcomes, including cardiac surgery outcomes and identify opportunities to further improve clinical services
- Seek to implement modern technology into the Cardiology service

A full training and education program was developed for cardiology nurses. This program can now be expanded to other hospitals in the area.



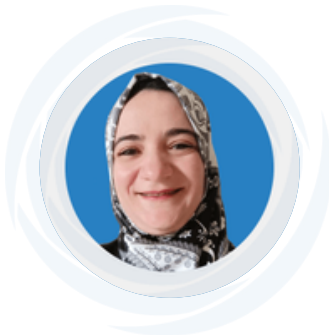
2022 Kickstarter Award Winners

2022 was the inaugural year for the Kickstarter Award, which is intended to benefit women cardiologists practicing in nations with transitional or developing economies, as defined by the United Nations. Two award winners were selected in this category, one of whom was unable to complete award requirements due to unsafe conditions in her home country of Ukraine.

Women as One will continue to support her throughout her journey to a new home. Our remaining award winner received a \$3,000 grant to support her professional goals.



Please click on the headshot of each winner for full bio and additional information.



Dr. Akila Bersali

Algeria

Project overview:

Application of affordable simulation and 3D printing techniques to establish a surgical simulation program which help training the young female surgeons and cardiologists in the management of heart's malformation

What the Winners Say:

“

Receiving this award has brought recognition and true escalation of my career. I have had the opportunity to become the team lead for a major grant submission, have been promoted to Deputy Director for the cardiovascular team, and have been approached for promotion to full chair.

Dr. Eylem Levelt

“

The Escalator Award funded a research study of sarcopenia in heart failure...the data collected will be published on its own and will also be used to support my R01 application.

Dr. Rebecca Cogswell

“

This is not only a mentor/mentee relationship...we are now friends. I'm sure that in the future you will hear about more progress that we have made together.

Dr. Irina Mbanze

“

Our mentor-mentee relationship has focused on advancing my career goals and passion in Cardiovascular Imaging and Prevention, by helping with development of clinical and research skills, working on research projects together, and creating more opportunities for research collaborations and mentorship, on an international scale.

Dr. Suvasini Lakshmanan



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Thank you

to all of our sponsors, applicants and winners for making the 2022 Escalator Awards such an impactful and meaningful program.

Questions?

Please contact Karoline Bowman

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