



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The Geneva Foundation's 2015 Researcher of the Year recipient announced**

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*Tacoma, WA* – The Geneva Foundation (Geneva) is honored to announce the 2015 Researcher of the Year Award recipient and finalists. Geneva's Researcher of the Year award is presented to a researcher who exemplifies Geneva's mission of advancing innovative medical research within the U.S. military, for the benefit of U.S. service members and veterans, their families, and the global community. This group of outstanding military researchers was selected by Geneva's Scientific Advisory Board, who evaluated nominees from Geneva's management team in the areas of research quality, dissemination, mentorship, innovation, collaboration, and impact.

"Geneva's Researcher of The Year Award was established by its Scientific Advisory Board to recognize and honor researchers within the U.S. military who have truly shaped military medicine in the delivery of better treatment options, therapies, and healthcare practices for our service members and the public at large", said Dr. David Shoultz, Chair of Geneva's Scientific Advisory Board.

LTC Luis M. Alvarez, Ph.D., Academy Professor & Director, Center for Molecular Science, United States Military Academy, was selected as Geneva's 2015 Researcher of the Year.

"The Geneva Foundation is honored to present Dr. Alvarez with the 2015 Researcher of the Year award in honor of his dedication to innovative research efforts addressing some of the most critical concerns facing wounded service members today. Dr. Alvarez's commitment to exemplary research in regenerative medicine is evident in the quality and impact of his work, from pioneering groundbreaking technologies addressing traumatic wound injuries to his leadership and collaborative roles within the research community." said Elise Huszar, President of The Geneva Foundation

Dr. Luis Alvarez is the founding Principal Investigator of the Regenerative Biology Research Group at the U.S. National Cancer Institute. He also serves as an Academy Professor and Director of the Center for Molecular Science in the Department of Chemistry and Life Science at United States Military Academy at West Point. Previously, Dr. Alvarez led the DoD's \$720M Bioscavenger pharmaceutical development program and co-founded the DoD's Tissue Injury and Regenerative Medicine program office at Ft. Detrick. He has also served as a Visiting Scientist for both the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was a Hertz Foundation Fellow during his time at MIT.

Geneva has been a proud partner of Dr. Alvarez for over six years through support of his research in developing biologics and cell therapies in the area of regenerative medicine. His research interests

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are motivated by his previous combat experiences and a desire to develop new regenerative medical therapies for injured service members. Dr. Alvarez's research projects focus on nerve and bone regeneration, with a view toward clinical translation. Recently, his group started pre-clinical development of a next-generation orthopedic therapeutic to address severe bone injuries. He is also pursuing the development of clinical platforms to enhance the rate of nerve regeneration and delivery of cell-based therapies to treat a variety of tissue deficits.

Dr. Alvarez maintains active partnerships with a number of notable institutions including Johns Hopkins University, Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His active collaborations within the military community are varied and have included partnerships with the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, and the National Cancer Institute at Ft. Detrick. Through his work in stem cell biology and biomaterials engineering, Dr. Alvarez is making significant contributions to military and civilian medicine.

The Geneva Foundation's 2015 Researcher of the Year Finalists are:

- **Andriy I. Batchinsky, MD**, Research Scientist, Multiorgan Support and Organ Preservation Task Area, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute
- **Marti Jett, PhD, SES-ST**, Chief Scientist, Systems Biology Enterprise, U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM), U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research

Geneva's 2015 Researcher of the Year award includes a grant of \$10,000. Funds are managed by Geneva, consistent with DOD regulations and Geneva practices.

### **About The Geneva Foundation**

The Geneva Foundation (Geneva), is a non-profit organization headquartered in Tacoma, WA. Established in 1993, Geneva supports innovative medical research within the U.S. military in the areas of federal grants, industry-sponsored clinical trials, federal contracts, and event management. We build enduring partnerships with world-renowned researchers, dedicated sponsors, and highly-skilled research and administrative professionals, all dedicated to the health and well-being of U.S. service members, their families, and the global community.