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**BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED RESEARCHER AWARDED \$6.7 MILLION GRANT**

**Dr. Ravi Allada Leads Investigation into Effects of Sleep Cycles on Age-Related Neurodegeneration**

CHICAGO, IL – (December 27, 2012) Using findings generated from research funded by a 2011 \$40,000 Brain Research Foundation (BRF) seed grant, Dr. Ravi Allada was awarded a \$6.7 million grant to continue work on the effects of circadian rhythms on neurodegeneration. “The data generated with the BRF Seed Grant now allows us to broaden our scope and examine the interaction between metabolic, circadian and aging timers relevant to processes such as age-related neurodegeneration,” stated Dr. Allada, Chair of Neurobiology at Northwestern University.

Dr. Allada’s new grant was awarded by The Defense Advanced Research Project Agency and will be awarded over four years.

“This is another case study that demonstrates how the seed grant program for neuroscience research is designed to work,” stated Terre Constantine, Ph.D., Executive Director of BRF. “With a modest investment by BRF and the strong results that were produced, funding of important research can be expanded rapidly.” BRF provides seed grants to novel, early stage scientific research that may otherwise go unfunded, which puts the science at risk of not moving forward. Dr. Allada’s work adds to the complex area of cognitive decline, which is in need of more research and funding to advance science.

Established to help innovative neuroscience researchers gather the data required to validate their hypotheses, the BRF Seed Grants are a critical first step in understanding neurological disorders. Since 1981, BRF has awarded more than \$9.6 million to fund early stage research focused on novel ideas. By enabling scientists to generate the preliminary data required for major grants, the Foundation estimates that its investments have led to a factor of ten times more funding for grantees and research.

**About the Brain Research Foundation**

The Brain Research Foundation supports cutting-edge neuroscience research that will lead to novel treatments and prevention of all neurological diseases in children and adults. We deliver this commitment through research grants, which provide initial funding for innovative projects, as well as educational programs for researchers and the general public.

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