



HEALTH DISCOVERY AWARD

**HONORING BREAKTHROUGHS
THAT TRANSFORM WHAT'S
POSSIBLE.**

Celebrating 30 Years of Advancing Canine Health Through Science.

MEDIA KIT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A New Era of Recognition in Canine Health Science

As the AKC Canine Health Foundation marks its 30th anniversary, it launches a new global honor, the **Canine Health Discovery of the Year Award**, spotlighting scientific breakthroughs that redefine how we understand, prevent, and treat disease in dogs. This prestigious award celebrates research that not only improves canine lives but also propels innovation in human medicine—proof that when we advance science for dogs, we advance it for all.

“This award shines a light on the discoveries that not only improve canine health but transform it. In many cases these advancements ripple into human medicine as well, highlighting our interconnectedness and elevating the importance of pushing the boundaries of scientific discovery.” ~Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CEO, AKC Canine Health Foundation

About the Award

Purpose: Recognize the single most transformative scientific breakthrough improving canine health.

Scope: Open to all researchers worldwide.

Review Panel: 18 leading veterinary scientists spanning oncology, genetics, cardiology, and nutrition.

Impact: Highlights groundbreaking discoveries with the potential to change the trajectory of disease.

Celebration: Winner revealed at the Canines & Cocktails Gala in Orlando, FL — December 11, 2025.

Media Opportunities: *Media invited to attend the exclusive Discovery Reception and Award Reveal.*



Why It Matters

For three decades, CHF has fueled the science that saves lives - funding over 1,100 studies in 28 countries and investing \$75+ million to advance understanding of canine disease.

From decoding genetics to pioneering cancer immunotherapies, CHF research has improved health outcomes for millions of dogs, and humans, too.

"The Canine Health Discovery Award honors not just one breakthrough, but the future of canine health. These discoveries light the path for the next 30 years of innovation." ~Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CEO, AKC Canine Health Foundation

Media Invitation

Experience Discovery in Action:

Event: Canine Health Discovery of the Year VIP Reception

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025 | 3:00 PM, Awards Gala at 6:00 PM

Location: Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL

Access: Complimentary for verified press

Opportunities for Journalists:

- ✓ Meet and interview semi-finalist researchers and CHF leadership
- ✓ Attend the winner's announcement during Canines & Cocktails
- ✓ Capture high-quality photo and video assets
- ✓ Access embargoed summaries and downloadable media materials
- ✓ Request Media Credentials: chris@exceleratecomm.com

About the AKC Canine Health Foundation

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is the world's only nonprofit dedicated solely to advancing the health of all dogs through scientific research and education. Since 1995, CHF has united scientists, veterinarians, breeders, and dog lovers in a mission to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease through groundbreaking science.

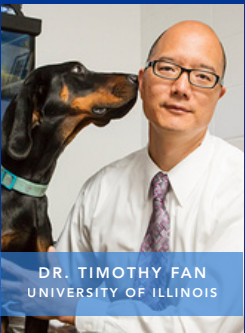
By the Numbers:

- \$75+ million invested in canine health research
- 1,100+ studies funded in 28 countries
- 50+ breeds directly benefited
- Dozens of cross-species breakthroughs in cancer, genetics, neurology, and cardiology

Learn more at akcCHF.org/discoveryoftheyear

MEET THE SEMIFINALISTS

EIGHT DISCOVERIES, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.



Each represents a breakthrough redefining canine health and in many cases, shaping advances in human medicine.

Lead Investigator & Institution	Breakthrough Title	Impact Summary
Dr. Perlata Santiago & Dr. Andrew Katt Cornell University	<i>New Hope for Canine Oral Cancer</i>	Repurposing the human cancer drug Trametinib shows promise in shrinking aggressive oral tumors—offering targeted, less invasive treatment.
Dr. Lisa Freeman Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University	<i>Diet-Associated Dilated Cardiomyopathy</i>	Identifies abnormal fatty molecules in urine linked to diet-associated heart disease, unlocking earlier detection and prevention methods.
Dr. Timothy Fan University of Illinois	<i>Intratumoral Cytokine Therapy</i>	Delivers immune-boosting proteins directly into tumors, showing strong potential for treating solid cancers in dogs and prompting human clinical trials.
Dr. Eleanor Raffan University of Cambridge	<i>Genetic Risk for Obesity in Labrador Retrievers</i>	Identifies a gene affecting appetite control, illuminating both canine and human obesity with compassion and scientific clarity.
Drs. Chand Khanna, Jacob Cawley & Samuel Stewart Ethos Discovery	<i>The PUSH Study: Splenic Tumor Insights</i>	Large-scale trial of 500+ dogs finds most splenic tumors are benign—reshaping veterinary treatment for a leading canine cancer.
Dr. Stacey Sullivan Auburn University	<i>Reducing Spinal Disease in Dachshunds</i>	Genetic discovery enables breeders to select for fewer risk variants, dramatically reducing spinal issues in the breed.
Dr. Jody Gookin NC State University	<i>Gallbladder Disease Linked to Cystic Fibrosis</i>	Reveals molecular overlap between canine gallbladder mucocele and human cystic fibrosis—opening new therapeutic directions.
Dr. Cindy Otto University of Pennsylvania	<i>Heatstroke Prevention for Working Dogs</i>	Trains dogs to dunk their heads in water—proven the fastest, most effective cooling method to prevent heatstroke.