

2025 G-CAN Award Recipients

Gold Medal Award



Tony Merriman, PhD

Professor

*Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama
USA*

Dr. Merriman studied for his PhD in bacterial genetics at the University of Otago, Aotearoa New Zealand. In 1994 he undertook post-doctoral training at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, in the genetics of a complex polygenic condition type 1 diabetes. In 1998 he returned to the University of Otago where he began a program studying the causes (genetic and environmental) of gout, with a focus on Indigenous Māori and Pacific Island people living in Aotearoa New Zealand. In 2020 he moved to the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he is continuing the gout research program and extending into CPPD disease.

G-CAN Presidential Emerging Career Investigator Award



Edoardo Cipolletta, MD, PhD

*Clinica Reumatologica - Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche e Molecolari, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Jesi (Ancona), Italy
Academic Rheumatology, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK*

Dr Cipolletta is a clinical research fellow at the Polytechnic University of Marche (Italy) and an Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist at "Carlo Urbani" Hospital (Italy). He is also an associate research fellow at the Academic Rheumatology of the University of Nottingham (UK). He received his medical training at the Polytechnic University of Marche (2010-2016) and his residency training at "Carlo Urbani" Hospital, both in Italy (2017-2022). He completed a PhD on the diagnosis and prognosis of flares in crystal arthritis in 2025. Apart from crystal arthritis, his other research interests include the epidemiology of rheumatic diseases, ultrasonography in musculoskeletal diseases, and the development of clinical prognostic models. He has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles (H-index 17).

G-CAN Master Awards



Kimiyoshi Ichida M.D., Ph.D.

*Emeritus Professor and visiting professor of Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, Tokyo, Japan
President of Japanese Society of Gout and Uric & Nucleic Acids*

Dr. Ichida is a 1982 graduate of Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan. He was a professor of pathophysiology department at Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences (2007-2023) and a visiting professor of division of kidney and hypertension and research institute for chronic kidney disease at Jikei University School of Medicine (2013- 2023). He is currently president of the Japanese Society of Gout and Nucleic Acid

Metabolism, a member of the Executive Committee of the Purine and Pyrimidine Society, and a council member of the Japanese Society of Nephrology. His record of awards includes The Society Awards from Japanese Society of Gout and Nucleic Acid Metabolism (2001), Tanabe Award of the society for the gout research (2003), and Torii Tufu Academic Award of the Japanese Gout Foundation (2012).



Michael Pillinger, MD

Professor of Medicine, and Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Division of Rheumatology

New York, USA

Dr. Pillinger completed his undergraduate studies at Harvard, his medical degree at NYU, his internal medicine residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and his rheumatology fellowship back at NYU. Dr. Michael Pillinger is Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, where he directs the NYU Crystal Disease Study Group and co-directs the NYU Gout Treatment Center with Dr. Michael Toprover. He is Director of Rheumatology Training, and Section Chief for Rheumatology at the Manhattan VA Hospital. For the NYU Clinical and Translational Science Institute, he supervises the NYU MS in Clinical Investigation and serves as PI of the KL2 training program. He has published more than 200 original research and review articles, editorials and book chapters. Past honors include the American College of Rheumatology Clinician Scholar Educator and Distinguished Program Director Awards, and the NYU Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award.

2025 G-CAN Presidential Rising Leader Award



Hang Korng Ea, MD

Professor, Cell Biology

Paris University

Paris, France