



Strategic Research Grant on Hypersomnolence Update

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The American Academy of Sleep Medicine Foundation (AASM Foundation) recently partnered with Wake Up Narcolepsy to award a Strategic Research Grant on topics related to narcolepsy because both organizations are passionate about improving the lives of people living with sleep disorders.

As a result of this partnership, the AASM Foundation's Board of Directors recently approved a \$100,000 Strategic Research Grant to principal investigators, Laura Lewis, PhD and Ewa Beldzik, PhD, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This grant was funded in collaboration with Wake Up Narcolepsy. Their topic is *Imaging the Brainstem and Hypothalamic Activity Underlying Sleepiness-Induced Attention Deficits in Humans*.

Broad scientific consensus has called for new biomarkers for hypersomnolence disorders, which is essential to improve their diagnosis and treatment. This project aims to image activity in the brain circuits responsible for sleep-wake regulation and understand how it is linked to cognitive symptoms. This project uses a noninvasive imaging tool, enabling translation to human patients. The AASM Foundation and Wake Up Narcolepsy funding is enabling this research to translate novel MRI-based tools to understand the neural basis of hypersomnolence disorders.

As a partner supporting the AASM Foundation's Strategic Research Grant program, Wake Up Narcolepsy appointed representatives to participate in the peer-review process, and the organization agreed to co-fund a portion of the grant once approved by the AASM Foundation's Board of Directors.

The AASM Foundation has distributed more than \$25 million in research funding since 1998, and we are proud to partner with organizations like Wake Up Narcolepsy as we work together to champion a bright future in sleep health.