The Michael Manzella Foundation- Summer Fellowships Awarded Since 1996

Year	Fellow Name	Amount Awarded	Project description	MMF funding areas
2026	Christian Baca	$5,000	Running a youth-centered educational program to cultivate critical civic skills, historical awareness, and leadership among young people in El Salvador.	Youth Development, Education
2026	Jaden Nicita	$4,000	Bringing an original one-act play to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe	Performing Arts
2026	Yiannis Scotiniadis	$4,000	Cancer Research in the Isaacs Lab at Yale	Cancer Research
2026	Jacob Leshnower	$5,500	Participating in the Eastern Festival of Music, a five-week orchestral institute	Performing Arts
2026	Justin Wang	$3,000	Attending the European American Musical Alliance conducting program	Performing Arts
2026	Abigail Murphy	$3,500	Internship with the Cape Cod Theatre Project	Performing Arts
2025	Rory Bricca	$5,000	Participating in the Bowdoin International Music Festival's Composition Program	Performing Arts
2025	Tabatha Mireya Stewart	$4,250	Interning with the Fundación Teatro Nacional Sucre, and teaching music to rural Ecuadorian children	Performing Arts, Education
2025	Stella Choi	$4,800	Writing a book to educate young children about safe use of Artificial Intelligence	Education, Youth Development
2025	Lofty-John Anyanwu	$3,500	Conducting research related to the leading form of leukemia in children	Cancer Research, Children's Causes
2024	Siji Smolev	$2,300	Internship with Hear Your Song, an organization through which children with serious illnesses find a voice and a sense of healing through collaborative songwriting.	Children's Causes, Performing Arts
2024	Dominique Romain	$1,000	Interning with nonprofit Room to Grow in NYC, working to provide low income mothers with the means to adequately take care of their babies	Children's Causes
2024	Aaron Liu	$2,800	Conducting cancer research at the Chen Lab at Yale School of Medicine	Cancer Research
2024	Genevieve Kim	$5,000	Conduct interdisciplinary research observing, analyzing, and comparing effects of music-based interventions on different types of dementia in Dr. Jason Warren's lab, University College London.	Performing Arts
2024	Mia Capella Cooper	$4,000	Conducting immunology and cancer research at the Chen Lab in the Yale School of Medicine	Cancer Research

2024	Chloe Budakian	$5,000	Internship with the Robertson Foundation, focused on literacy interventions and teacher compensation	Children's Causes, Education
2023	Anya AitSahlia	$6,600	Internship with Hear Your Song, a nonprofit dedicated to helping children and teens facing life-threatening illness to express themselves through collaborative songwriting.	Children's Causes, Performing Arts, Cancer
2023	Hannah Kurczeski	$3,000	Internship with Cape Cod Theatre Project	Performing Arts
2022	Yakeleen Almazan	$6,680	Developing the Education curriculum at the COPPROME orphanage in Honduras.	Education, Youth Development
2022	Lillian Wenker	$3,695	Shadowing master clown Philippe Gaulier to inform a senior thesis on Comedy and Stupidity	Performing Arts, Education
2022	Carmen Lopez Villamil	$3,280	Working as a Peer Mentor with the International Rescue Committee, supporting the adjustment and empowerment of refugee youth.	Youth Development, Education
2022	Grace Campos	$5,000	Researching and writing a new musical based on Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera's relationship.	Performing Arts
2022	Jasmine Oang	$3,000	Working as a Policy Intern in the New Haven Public School system.	Education, Youth Development
2021	Lillian Wenker	$3,000	Touring fringe festivals in Europe performing an original work	Performing Arts
2021	Michael Gancz	$3,200	Attending music composition workshops to inform the writing of a new concert composition for the Yale Symphony Orchestra	Music, Performing Arts
2021	Onyedikachi Uche	$3,200	Conducting Cancer research in the Bahmanyar Lab at Yale	Cancer Research
2021	Medha Majety	$3,000	Conducting Cancer research at the Sidi Chen Lab at Yale	Cancer research
2021	Katherine Du	$3,200	Creating a mental wellness program for children at the New Haven Boys & Girls Club summer camp	Children's Causes
2021	Mathew Krick	$3,200	Conducting Cancer research in the Halene Lab at Yale University	Cancer research
2020	Sri Yalamanchi	$2,000	Conducting laboratory research related to cancer at the Cornell Medical Center	Cancer Research
2020	Simon Rabinowitz	$3,500	Interning at the Cape Cod Theater Project	Performing Arts
2020	Lillian Wenker	$2,000	Writing a book of poetry about front line workers during COVID and performing for children	Performing Arts

2020	Saphia Suarez	$3,500	Interning at the Cape Cod Theater Project	Performing Arts
2020	Jaqueline Knobelsdorf	$2,000	conducting cancer research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute	Cancer Research
2020	Sam Brakarsh	$4,000	Improve literacy, hygiene and cultural sharing in Zimbabwe	Education, Children's Causes
2019	Isobel Anthony	$3,500	Study art song at SongFest at the Colburn School in Los Angeles	Performing Arts
2019	Logan Klutse	$3,200	Intern at the Cape Cod Theatre Project in Falmouth, MA	Performing Arts
2019	Krista Chen	$3,300	Research related to cancer in the laboratory of Dr. Sidi Chen at Yale University	Cancer research
2019	Lillian Wenker	$8,200	Conduct an eight-week acting program for at-risk youth in Curridabat, Costa Rica in partnership with Magicians Without Borders; and intern at the Cape Cod Theatre Project in Falmouth, MA	Children's Causes, Performing Arts
2018	Ashtan Towles	$3,400	Internships with Believe In Me Empowerment Corporation and Connecting Through Literacy, conducting research on the effect of literacy programs for children of incarcerated parents (all in New Haven)	Children's causes, education
2018	Tran Le	$2,425	Internship at the US Department of Education in Washington, DC, in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.	Education
2018	Camille Arboles	$4,950	Apprenticeship in Performance at Berkshire Theater Group.	Performing arts
2018	Sam Brakarsh	$2,000	Creating a children’s theatre to empower youth in a small Zimbabwe village that confronts socio-cultural problems.	Children's causes, Performing Arts
2018	Jillian Eckroate	$1,000	Conduct cancer research at the Bindra lab at Yale	Cancer research
2018	Amy Xiong	$1,350	Conduct cancer research at the Ratner lab at Yale	Cancer research
2018	Seth Anderson	$4,300	Conduct cancer research at the Takyar lab at Yale	Cancer research
2017	Hannah J. Lee	$2,600	To perform laboratory research at the Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases through the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio	Cancer research

2017	Stephen Wang	$2,500	To perform research relating to Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, a cancer that stems from the uncontrolled proliferation of B cells, in the lab of Dr. Craig Crews at Yale	Cancer research
2017	Daniel McQuaid	$2,500	To perform research investigating PROTAC-induced degradation of the MET oncogene in the context of exon 14 skipping mutations, related to lung, liver and gastric cancer, in the lab of Dr. Craig Crews at Yale University	Cancer research
2017	Josephine Wilson	$2,400	To perform research in the Jacks Lab at MIT, focusing on characterizing the role of interleukin-33 (IL33) in lung tumor development	Cancer research
2016	Kevin Nguyen	$1,800	To examine and improve biopsy strategies for the detection of prostate cancer lesions under the mentorship of Dr. Preston Sprenkle at the Yale School of Medicine in the Department of Urology	Cancer research
2016	Jordan Leibman	$1,500	To perform clinical research related to a specific leukemia treatment under the guidance of Dr. Gail Roboz at the Weill Cornell Medical Center Hospital in New York City	Cancer research
2016	Lidiya Kukova	$2,250	To perform research into the characterization of POT1 cancer mutations and the generation of a telomere dysfunction-induced cancer mouse model.	Cancer research
2016	Luying Yan	$3,100	to perform research into Fanconi anemia (FA), an autosomal and X-linked recessive disorder that, in many pediatric patients, leads to cancers such as acute myeloid leukemia and squamous cell carcinoma later in life	Cancer research
2016	Alexandra Cadena	$3,200	to perform research examining the effects of the NGI-1 drug on the radiosensitivity of cells derived from thoracic malignancies (i.e. lung cancer cell lines).	Cancer research
2016	Alexandru Buhimschi	$2,700	to perform research into Lysine Selectivity of the Proteolysis Targeting Chimeras (PROTACs) in the lab of Dr. Craig Crews	Cancer research

2016	Luke Benz	$1,150	to work with Dr. Claus of the Yale School of Public Health on a biostatistics project related to the treatment of brain tumors, and to provide free music lessons to underserved youth in Middlebury, VT	Cancer research, Music, Children's causes
2015	Jessica Su	$3,070	uncovering the role of BOK (BCL-2 Ovarian Killer) in apoptosis regulation in the lab of Dr. Samuel Katz at Yale University	Cancer research
2015	Daniel Michelson	$2,500	conducting laboratory research including SHM targeting to understand human B cell malignancies	Cancer research
2015	Kevin Sherwin	$1,600	to form a non-auditioned summer chorus for members of the Yale and New Haven community, which will be called the New Haven Summer Chorus	Music
2015	Kevin Huang	$2,500	researching the role of ATF4 in lung adenocarcinoma metastasis	Cancer research
2015	Elsie Yau	$1,000	to establish an annual, community-based summer classical music concert series in the Harlem and Washington Heights neighborhoods of New York City	Music
2015	Nick Goel	$500	conducting laboratory research with tissue samples from breast cancer patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital	Cancer research
2014	Emefa Agawu	$4,000	Teaching music to children who are survivors of child-slavery in Ghana, through Challenging Heights (an NGO).	Music, Children's causes
2014	Sara Torres	$3,000	Lab research studying the role that autophagy plays in metabolism and cancer, at Yale	Cancer research
2014	Elise Wilson	$3,000	Leukemia research at University of Oxford, UK	Cancer research
2014	Marina Horiates	$2,800	Head and neck radiation oncology internship at MD Anderson, Texas	Cancer research
2014	Divyansh Agarwal	$2,800	Breast Cancer research at Yale	Cancer research
2014	Jessica Su	$2,370	Lab research related to Ovarian Cancer at Yale	Cancer research
2014	Ilana Scandariato	$1,500	Lab research studying vasculogenesis, blood vessel replacement, links to cancer; also teaching science to kids in New Haven	Cancer research, Education, Children's causes
2013	Stephanie Tubiolo	$1,500	creating the New Haven Youth Choir, a choral instruction and performance experience for low-income New Haven youth from 5th to 9th grades	Music, Children's causes

2013	Ethan Karetsky	$2,000	conduct research on American Musical Theater at the Warner Brothers Archives in Hollywood, purchase the rights to the musical Gypsy, and work with his production team to develop the musical Gypsy into a mainstage production for performance at Yale	Performing arts
2013	Divyansh Agarwal	$4,450	conduct genetic analysis of data collected from breast cancer patients in the Collaborative Oncological Gene-Environment Study in the lab of Dr. Nuria Malats at the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncologicas, a premiere cancer research lab in Madrid, Spain	Cancer research
2013	Francis Mburu	$6,460	conduct research related to brain cancer tumor growth in the lab of Dr. Stephen Quake at Stanford University	Cancer research
2013	Vasiliki Triantafillou	$500	continue lab research studying lung cancer, specifically lung cancer cells (miRNA) that have been identified to predict patient relapse and control the invasive behavior of lung cancer cells, in the laboratory of Don X. Nguyen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology at the Yale School of Medicine's Smilow Cancer Center	Cancer research
2012	Sabrina Gill	$1,500	Lab research studying chemotherapy resistance in ovarian cancer cells. She will work in the laboratory of Gil G. Mor, MD at the Yale Medical School	Cancer research
2012	Christine Willinger	$1,000	Lab research studying breast cancer cell biomarkers, specifically with an eye toward targeting patients for endocrine therapy in the laboratory of David L. Rimm, MD, Ph.D. at the Yale Medical School, Pathology Department	Cancer research
2012	Li Boynton	$1,500	Lab research studying cancer metastisis, specifically tumor growth and progression via inflammation. She will work in the laboratory of Anjelica Gonzalez, MD, at the Malone Center, the biomedical engineering center at Yale	Cancer research

2012	Vasiliki Triantafillou	$2,500	Lab research studying lung cancer, specifically lung cancer cells (miRNA) that have been identified to predict patient relapse, working with Don X. Nguyen, MD at the Yale School of Medicine Smilow Cancer Center	Cancer research
2012	Terrence Chin-Loy	$3,000	Five week, intensive operatic training festival with Opera on the Avalon in Newfoundland, Canada playing the role of Puccini's Rinuccio from Gianni Schicchi	Music, Performing Arts
2011	Alex Liu	$1,500	conducting laboratory research related to Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer under the direction of Dr. Narendra Wajapeyee at Yale University	Cancer research
2011	Nathaniel Meyer	$1,500	organizing and conducting the Belmont Summer Music Festival in Belmont, MA	Music
2011	Evan Mullen	$2,000	working with children affected by HIV/AIDS through L'Association Espoir poir Demain in Burkina Faso	Children's causes
2011	Sebastian Caliri	$3,000	conducting laboratory research relating to the development of novel cancer therapeutics under the direction of Dr. Joseph Schlessinger at Yale University	Cancer research
2010	Betsy Cowell	$1,500	Art Therapy with pediatric cancer patients in Texas	Cancer, Children's causes
2010	Adam Weiner	$1,500	Shadow oncologist in Madrid	Cancer research
2010	Alyssa Mitson-Salazar	$1,500	Cancer research studying erytholeukemia cell lines	Cancer research
2010	Helen Jack	$1,500	Internship in Ghana to improve maternal and infant health	Children's causes, education
2010	Jennifer Nadelmann	$1,500	Research in Belgium studying astrocytomas (brain tumor link)	Cancer research
2010	Natalia Emanuel	$1,500	Teaching Poetry Slam classes to underserved youth in New York City, working through The Door (an NYC nonprofit)	Children's causes, Performing Arts
2010	Julia Rogers	$600	Structural biology research in Frankfurt	Cancer research
2009	Julia Lemle	$2,000	helping poor street children in Burkina Faso (Africa) with education and nutrition	Children's causes, Education

2009	Yuzhe Feng	$2,000	Improving Water Sanitation and Reducing related diseases for Children in Bengal, India	Children's causes
2009	Sarah Ballatori	$1,500	Cancer research (impacting the vasculature of tumors) in Belgium	Cancer research
2009	Kelvin Vu	$1,500	Designing a “wild zone” play area for disadvantaged youth in New London, CT, in conjunction with FRESH Community Garden project	Children's causes
2008	Roshan Sethi	$2,000	working as an intern in the Office of the Surgeon General in Washington, DC. on the Childhood Overweight and Obesity Prevention Initiative	Children's causes, Education
2008	Charlotte Renfield-Miller	$1,500	working with children in Rwanda at the Hameau des Jeunes St. Kizito orphanage	Children's causes
2008	Dwight Dickerson	$2,000	working with underserved children in New Haven and West Haven through a brass band ensemble.	Music, Children's causes
2008	Simon Schwartzman	$2,000	tutoring underserved youth in English and Math through Legal Outreach, a New York-based nonprofit organization	Children's causes, Education
2007	Tina Liu	$800	Yale Lab Research- Breast Cancer	Cancer research
2007	Onyi Offor	$1,200	Stanford lab research- cancer and brain metastases links and prevention	Cancer research
2007	Patrick McCarthy	$1,500	UNICEF water and sanitation project for benefit of elementary students in China	Children's causes
2007	Vernon-James Riley	$2,500	Start IMPACT youth theater arts program in New Haven for underprivileged students in the public school system	Children's causes, Performing Arts
2006	Wesley Greenblatt	$1,000	Lab research concerning endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation (ERAD), a system very relevant to cancer	Cancer research
2006	Shanah Tirado	$1,000	Leukemia research under the mentorship of Dr. Archibald Perkins at Yale, and volunteering at Yale-New Haven Hospital in the adult emergency department	Cancer research

2006	Amanda Wittenstein	$1,200	Internship at Children's Rights, a nonprofit organization in New York City, as a member of the legal support staff, editing briefs, organizing documents, and monitoring media coverage	Children's causes
2006	Jessica Rubin	$1,500	Lab research concerning bone metastasis at Washington University School of Medicine, also shadow doctor in clinical rounds, also help with young scientists program at Medical school	Cancer research
2006	Alex Chiu	$1,500	Lab research into the effects of Chinese medicine on cancer under the direction of Dr. Tuan at the Tang Center in Chicago	Cancer research
2005	Carly Guss	$1,500	genotyping circadian genes associated with breast cancer	Cancer research
2005	Julia Lauper	$1,500	cancer research at Stanford and at Yale	Cancer research
2005	Hang "Julie" Xu	$1,000	teaching English and music to blind children in China	Music, Children's causes
2005	Meara Palmer-Young	$500	one-month training to learn Suzuki theater exercises, therapeutic as she manages her own leukemia- in the hopes to train others when returning to Yale	Music, Cancer
2005	Romy Drucker	$600	internship at SHARE (a breast cancer and ovarian cancer advocacy and support organization), organizing advocacy campaigns, writing newsletter and translating it into Spanish for emerging Latina readership	Cancer, Education
2004	Patrick Huguenin	$2,000	Research to develop an original play, entitled Emergency State, and internship at Rosenstone/Wender, a highly regarded literary/playwrighting agency.	Music, Performing arts
2004	Maya Ling	$1,500	International health project with KBI working with hospitals and clinics to ensure the delivery of RYSA health supplies for children and orphans and to identify children who would most benefit from receiving free medical care in the United States.	Children's causes

2004	Abigail Keene-Babcock	$1,500	Work with El Buen Samaritano in Guatemala, a nonprofit and independent day-center that serves high-risk children and their families	Children's causes
2003	Nancy Huyak	$1,500		
2003	Justin David Albstein	$1,500		
2003	Elena Grewal	$1,500		
2002	Susan Hiniken	$1,500		
2002	Kristen Lucy	$1,500		
2002	Stanley Sedora	$1,500		
2002	Eugene Yim	$1,500		
2001	Oana Marian	$1,500		
2001	Orianne Dutka	$1,500		
2001	Joshua Griggs	$1,500		
2001	James DuRuz	$1,500		
2000	Jessica T. Lin	$1,500		
2000	Elizabeth K. Halsey	$1,500		
2000	Steven J. Holochwost	$1,500		
2000	Sara J. Sternberg	$1,500		
1999	Karessa Cain	$1,500		
1999	Sunita Puri	$1,500		
1998	Janet F. McLaren	$1,500		
1998	Lisa Marie Paswell	$1,500		
1998	Brecken Armstrong	$1,500		
1997	Jennifer DaSilva	$1,500		
1997	Shahid Nimjee	$1,500		
1996	Julie Edwards	$1,500		
Total		***$336,980***		