



For Immediate Release:

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**MASONICAL MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY RECEIVES \$15,000
GRANT FROM VERIZON FOUNDATION**

Grant will support local high school students' participation in conference.

UTICA, NY – The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) today announced they recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications Inc.

The grant will be used to further expand the Lab's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education programs, specifically related to the Upstate New York Cardiac Electrophysiology Society (UNYCES) annual meeting that the lab will be hosting on Oct. 28 this year.

“Verizon is a long-time supporter of STEM education,” said Chip Lawrence, Senior Manager-State Government Affairs Verizon. “We’re excited to partner with a world-class organization like the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory to bring students into the lab and gain real-life experience that will inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The UNYCES conference will bring together approximately 60 researchers and clinicians in the upstate New York and Toronto region to provide a platform for the communication between the academic, clinical and industrial electrophysiology communities. This year’s conference will also feature 10 to 15 high school students and their science teachers from local Mohawk Valley schools. These students and teachers will come to the lab for the conference and interact with the researchers.

“We are extremely thankful that the Verizon Foundation has provided this grant so we can expand on our conference and bring in a group of bright young local students,” said Dr. Brian Panama, Research Scientist – Experimental Cardiology and Director of Education. “We are always looking for ways to connect with our local students and encourage the next generation of scientists, and this is a fantastic opportunity and hopefully there will be even more to come.”

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory has mentored and inspired talented high school and college student for over 50 years through the Summer Fellows program. The Lab also offers a pre- and post-doctoral fellowship program, mentoring and hosting local students throughout the year. For more information visit: <https://www.mmrl.edu/education/>

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About the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute founded by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York in 1958 and is dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The Laboratory is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease. Please visit www.mmrl.edu to learn more.

About Verizon

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE, Nasdaq: VZ), headquartered in New York City, has a diverse workforce of nearly 162,700 and generated nearly \$132 billion in 2015 revenues. Verizon operates America's most reliable wireless network, with 113.2 million retail connections nationwide. The company also provides communications and entertainment services over mobile broadband and the nation's premiere all-fiber network, and delivers integrated business solutions to customers worldwide.