In June, eight researchers in the Department of Internal Medicine were recognized for their exceptional achievements in research, during a special Research Awards Grand Rounds presentation. The recipients were as follows:

James Armitage, MD, Division of Oncology/Hematology, was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Armitage started successful bone marrow transplantation programs at both the University of Iowa and UNMC. He is also known for starting one of the first and largest successful programs studying transplantation for lymphoma patients, and he started the Lymphoma Study Group, which contains tissue samples and data from over 6,000 patients. He put UNMC’s lymphoma research in the national and international spotlight by being published in top journals like the New England Journal of Medicine.

Thomas Porter, MD, Division of Cardiology, was the recipient of the Career Excellence Award.

Dr. Porter has developed a number of innovative approaches to cardiac ultrasound and holds 18 patents. His methods are used as both diagnostic tools and as a means for non-invasive delivery of therapeutic interventions. He has been a member of the American Society of Echocardiography’s Guidelines and Standards Committee since 2009. He was the recipient of the University of Nebraska’s Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA) in 2013.

Natalia Osna, MD, PhD, Division of Gastroenterology/Hepatology received the Basic Science Research Award.

Dr. Osna’s research interests are in the pathogenesis and treatment of alcoholic liver disease and hepatitis C. Dr. Osna has 60 peer-reviewed publications, including several in high-impact journals like Hepatology, Gastroenterology and the American Journal of Pathology. She has been the principal investigator of two NIH R21 grants. She is currently PI on a VA Merit grant.

Tara Nordgren-Gries, PhD, Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep and Allergy Division, was the recipient of the Postdoctoral Research Award.

Dr. Nordgren-Gries recently was awarded an NIH F32 postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences – a two-year award. She already has eight publications to her credit. She has presented her research at 12 different conferences while a postdoc in the Department. She received the UNMC Postdoctoral Fellow of the Year Award in 2013.

Vijaya Bhatt, MBBS, Division of Oncology/Hematology received the Fellowship Research Award.

Since Dr. Bhatt began at UNMC, he authored or co-authored 10 publications or review articles and seven case reports on various aspects of clinical oncology care. He also has seven in-press articles and four more submitted and has co-authored two book chapters. He
is an ad hoc reviewer for PLOS ONE and American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Subhankar Chakraborty, MBBS, PhD, received the Resident Research Award.

During his residency, Dr. Chakraborty worked on at least five research projects that have led to four original research articles, one review article and two poster presentations at national meetings. He demonstrates a diverse range of research interests including cancer, gastroenterology and hepatology, cell signaling and general internal medicine. He has been an editorial board member for several journals, as well as being an ad hoc reviewer for several journals.

Irina Rozin, now a fourth-year medical student, received the Medical Student Research Award.

Irina completed her capstone project with the Comprehensive HIV Medicine Track of the Enhanced Medical Education Track program in her third year of medical school. Her findings were accepted for an abstract to the Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Family Practitioners. Irina also hopes to present her work at a national meeting in the fall and will submit her work to a peer-reviewed journal.

Jun Ikari, MD, PhD, received the Laureate Award for a Visiting Scientist.

Dr. Ikari worked in the laboratory of Stephen Rennard, MD, for three years. During this time Dr. Ikari completed work on three distinct but related projects. His work led directly to six publications and supported several grant applications.