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**Alpha Phi Foundation Funds Research Targeted at Understanding Coronary  
Microvascular Disease in Women**

*Alpha Phi Foundation announces the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of  
Pennsylvania as the recipient of the 2022 Heart to Heart Grant*

**Evanston, IL – March 4, 2022** – Alpha Phi Foundation has awarded faculty members at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania with a \$100,000 grant for a research project called *Genetic Determinants of Coronary Microvascular Disease in Women*. Project investigators Drs. Marie Guerraty and Shefali Verma will utilize information from the Penn Medicine BioBank to increase understanding around this malady in women. By investigating genetic variants that correlate with the diagnosis of Coronary Microvascular Disease (CMVD), Drs. Guerraty and Verma are hopeful that pathways for targeted treatments can be identified.

“Not only will this project aid in creating advancements for women’s heart health, but it will also be done in a way that can be easily explained to anyone. Alpha Phi members and external researchers alike will be able to understand the benefits of this research to the future of CMVD diagnosis and treatment,” says Shana Smith (Chi-Montana), Alpha Phi Foundation Board Director and Heart to Heart Advisory Council member.

Awarded annually, the Heart to Heart Grant funds research and educational programs that support the advancement of women’s heart health and cardiac care. The Heart to Heart Grant would not be possible without the continued generosity of Alpha Phi Foundation donors and volunteers.

“CMVD contributes to the higher burden of untreated cardiovascular disease in women. Rapid and impactful research is urgently needed in this area to improve outcomes in women,” says Dr. Guerraty.

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**Alpha Phi Foundation**

*Founded in 1956, Alpha Phi Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance women’s lives through the power of philanthropy. The Foundation is the philanthropic and educational partner of Alpha Phi International Fraternity. Through contributions from individuals and chapters, the Foundation funds programming focused on leadership, scholarship, women’s heart health, assistance grants to support sisters and collegiate chapters facing crisis situations, and heritage. For more information visit [www.alphaphifoundation.org](http://www.alphaphifoundation.org).*