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## Casey Trimmer Named Morley R. Kare Postdoctoral Fellow

PHILADELPHIA (October 20, 2017) – Casey Trimmer, PhD, has been named the Monell Center's 2017-2018 Morley R. Kare Postdoctoral Fellow. Trimmer, a geneticist, studies how differences in olfactory receptor genes affect human smell perception.

The Kare Fellowship was established in 1990 to honor the vision of Monell's founding Director, Morley Kare, PhD, who recognized the importance of nurturing young scientists to become leaders in the chemical senses. Support for the Fellowship is provided by donations from Dr. Kare's family and friends, other individual donors, and the Monell Foundation.

Joining a distinguished list of Monell junior faculty, Trimmer is the first postdoctoral fellow to be awarded a Kare Fellowship.

"Our highly talented postdocs are key drivers of our scientific success. Casey's appointment as Kare Postdoctoral Fellow recognizes the importance of our postdocs to Monell's research enterprise as well as her accomplishments," said Monell Director Robert Margolskee, MD, PhD.

Trimmer received her doctoral degree in genetics from Thomas Jefferson University and joined Monell in 2013 to work with olfactory neuroscientist Joel Mainland, PhD. In her work with Mainland, Trimmer employs next-generation sequencing technology to identify variations in the genetic code that influence people's sense of smell. Her research will allow us to better understand the link between olfactory genetics and differences in odor perception.

"Casey is a gifted researcher who continues to push herself to learn new scientific methods and approaches," said Mainland. "Her record speaks volumes about her considerable abilities in molecular biology, bioinformatics, and cellular techniques alike. Casey also has been a constant leader in developing Monell's Summer Apprenticeship Program and contributing to scientific outreach. She has a real talent for teaching – she can take complicated science and tailor the big picture to her audience, be they



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students in a class, children at a science outreach event, or her fellow scientists here at Monell.”

As Kare Postdoctoral Fellow, Trimmer will receive a year of salary support, as well as funding to purchase research supplies.

“I am grateful for the Kare Fellowship, which will allow me to continue my work in this exciting area of olfactory science,” said Trimmer. “Ultimately, we hope this research will allow us to learn more about how the brain encodes odor information.”

The Monell Chemical Senses Center is an independent nonprofit basic research institute based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Poised to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018, Monell advances scientific understanding of the mechanisms and functions of taste and smell to benefit human health and well-being. Using an interdisciplinary approach, scientists collaborate in the programmatic areas of sensation and perception; neuroscience and molecular biology; environmental and occupational health; nutrition and appetite; health and well-being; development, aging and regeneration; and chemical ecology and communication. For more information about Monell, visit [www.monell.org](http://www.monell.org).

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