



Working together to optimize investment in health research and training

Mission:

The Health Research Alliance serves not-for-profit, non-governmental funders by improving communication and fostering collaboration:

- **Internally**, among member organizations, to share data and best practices, informed by current information on the landscape of the health research enterprise; and
- **Externally**, by encouraging communication and collaboration among grantmakers and the broader health research and policymaking communities.

These efforts support the continuum of health research and training from biomedical science to applications that advance health.

In aggregate, HRA member organizations provide over \$1.5 billion in research awards each year, funding over 5500 researchers annually.

Health Research Alliance Member Organizations as of March, 2010

*AACR Foundation for the Prevention and Cure of Cancer
Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery Foundation
American Cancer Society
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
Arthritis Foundation
The ASCO Cancer Foundation
Autism Speaks
Avon Foundation for Women
Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Cancer Research Institute, Inc.
Children's Tumor Foundation
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
The Donaghue Foundation
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The Flinn Foundation
Fondation Leducq
Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network
Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc.*

*The Gerber Foundation
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Hydrocephalus Association
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Intl.
W. M. Keck Foundation
Susan G. Komen for the Cure
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lupus Foundation of America
Lymphoma Research Foundation
March of Dimes Foundation
The Medical Foundation
MPD Foundation
Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
Muscular Dystrophy Association
The Myelin Repair Foundation
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Parent Project for Muscular Dystrophy
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Simons Foundation
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation*

History:

Organizations that planned the Health Research Alliance met informally for several years, convening three biennial national conferences prior to the creation of HRA.

The Health Research Alliance incorporated in November 2005, and received its advance ruling from the IRS as a public charity in April, 2006. The first national conference officially convened by the Alliance, "*Building Strategic Partnerships to Advance Health Research*," was held at the Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, D.C., in May 2006, and examined a number of successful funding partnerships spanning translational research, research networks and funding teams, drug discovery and development, workforce/career development, and regional models for influencing state policy.

The most recent national conference, “*Accelerating Medical Discovery Through Strategic Philanthropy*,” took place March 2008 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., and analyzed three themes: new science for discovery and translation, strategic philanthropy, and developing best practices in health research grantmaking. The conference featured keynote addresses from Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., then Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, and Leroy Hood, M.D. Ph.D., Co-Founder and President of the Institute for Systems Biology, among others.

Activities of the Alliance are overseen by a 12-member Board of Directors representing the organizational members of the HRA. The programmatic work of the Alliance is advanced by the Working Groups listed below and through meetings of the membership, held twice a year and hosted by member organizations. HRA also organizes meetings by conference call and webinar during the year on topics of specific interest.

Projects:

In addition to progress made at the Members’ Meetings described above, four Alliance Working Groups have been moving the organization’s agenda forward:

- The **gHRAsp Oversight Committee** is overseeing the implementation and enhancement of a unique, searchable database (called gHRAsp: Grants in the Health Research Alliance Shared Portfolio) to collect and display information on grant awards and recipients from private funders of health research. Member organizations have populated the database with data from award years 2006-2008, and the initial report from the database will be made in 2010.
- The **Evaluation Working Group** is working to raise the level of evaluation capacity among private funders of health research, in three themes or tracks: the impact of discovery science, progress and impact in a venture philanthropy portfolio, and the impact of career development awards.
- The **Grants Administration Working Group** is addressing a wide range of operational issues common to funders of health research, such as mentoring, e-grantmaking, bioethics, intellectual property issues, and reviewer conflict of interest policies. Information is shared in the members-only portion of the HRA website as well as at meetings and by conference call. This working group oversees the HRA listserv and provides opportunities for all members to participate in frequent “Open Mic” discussions by conference call on topics of interest.
- The **Translational Philanthropy Working Group** is focusing on sharing methods to accelerate both the development of therapeutics and the dissemination of new medical practices — including new models of partnering with donors and investors to move discoveries into application.

Sharing information:

HRA’s website, <http://www.healthra.org> contains a wealth of resources for funders of health research as well as additional information about the Alliance. Specific resources are available in the Members-Only portion of the website, and general resources appear on the public pages of the site. HRA also operates a listserv, HRAList, to which representatives of member organizations may subscribe.

For more information:

Membership is open to not-for-profit, non-governmental funders of health research that meet eligibility criteria. For additional information, please contact:

*Kate Ahlport, Executive Director
Health Research Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 13901
21 T. W. Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3901*

919-991-5130 Phone
919-991-0695 Fax

kahlport@bwfund.org
www.healthra.org