



Working together to optimize investment in health research and training

Mission

The Health Research Alliance fosters collaboration among not-for-profit, non-governmental funders to support the continuum of health research and training from biomedical science to applications that advance health, by improving communication and 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.

Health Research Alliance Member Organizations as of May 1, 2008

AACR Foundation for the Prevention and Cure of Cancer
Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy
Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
Arthritis Foundation
The ASCO Foundation
Autism Speaks
Avon Foundation
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.
Foundation for the National Institutes of Health
The Gerber Foundation
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Intl.
Susan G. Komen for the Cure
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lymphoma Research Foundation
March of Dimes Foundation
The Medical Foundation
MPD Foundation
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
Muscular Dystrophy Association
The Myelin Repair Foundation
Prevent Cancer 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 in 2005. The most recent national conference, "Accelerating Medical Discovery Through Strategic Philanthropy," was held March 4-6, 2008 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The 2008 conference examined three themes: new science for discovery and translation, strategic philanthropy, and developing best practices in health research grantmaking, and featured keynote addresses from Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, Leroy Hood, M.D. Ph.D., Co-Founder and President of the Institute for Systems Biology, and others. 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 2004 conference, "Partnering to Advance Health Research: Philanthropy's Role," examined how different types of partnerships can move health research forward from the laboratory bench to the end result of improved health outcomes. Conference proceedings are made available as pdfs downloadable from the HRA website (www.healthra.org) under "Resources/Publications."

The Health Research Alliance incorporated in November, 2005, and received its advance ruling from the IRS as a public charity in April, 2006. 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 an Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the participating organizations listed above. Advisory Committee meetings are held twice a year and are hosted by member organizations.

Projects:

In addition to the work of the Advisory Committee described above, four Alliance Working Groups have been moving the organization's agenda forward:

- The **Foundation Awards Database Working Group** is developing 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.
- The **Program Evaluation Working Group** is working to raise the level of program evaluation capacity among private funders of health research, capitalizing on the capabilities of the gHRAsp database that is under development.
- 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.
- The **Partnerships-Investments Working Group** is interested in sharing models on how to partner with donors and investors to accelerate the development of therapeutics. This group has planned several sessions for HRA Advisory Committee meetings on aspects of this issue. The most recent session, at the May 2007 meeting at the Avon Foundation, focused on best practices in venture philanthropy.

For more 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, including a listing of our Board of Directors. Membership is open to not-for-profit, non-governmental funders of health research that meet eligibility criteria. For additional information please contact:

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