



***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 July 15, 2009***

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

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 Cancer 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  
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  
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 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](http://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 the Working Groups listed below and through meetings of the membership, which are held twice a year, 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 are in the process of populating the database with data from award years 2006-2008.
- The **Evaluation Working Group** is working to raise the level of evaluation capacity among private funders of health research, focusing on three themes or tracks: evaluating the impact of discovery science, assessing progress and impact in a venture philanthropy portfolio, and evaluating 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.
- The **Translational Philanthropy Working Group** is a new working group focused on sharing methods to accelerate 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](mailto:kahlport@bwfund.org)  
[www.healthra.org](http://www.healthra.org)