



***Working together to optimize the impact of investment in biomedical research and training to improve human health***

***Purpose:***

The Health Research Alliance brings together not-for-profit, non-governmental funders of biomedical research and training to:

- Foster open communication and collaboration among members
- Provide comprehensive data and analysis about the funding of biomedical research and training by HRA member organizations
- Identify gaps in funding and facilitate innovative grantmaking
- Address issues key to accelerating research discovery and its translation

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 September, 2011**

*AACR Foundation for the Prevention and Cure of Cancer  
Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery Foundation  
American Brain Tumor Association  
American Cancer Society  
American Diabetes Association  
American Federation for Aging Research  
American Heart Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Autism Speaks  
Avon Foundation for Women  
Burroughs Wellcome Fund  
Cancer Research Institute, Inc.  
Children's Tumor Foundation  
Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO  
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation  
The Donaghue Foundation  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation  
Ellison Medical Foundation  
The Flinn Foundation  
Fondation Leducq  
Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc.  
Foundation for the National Institutes of Health*

*The Gerber Foundation  
Heart Rhythm Society  
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, a division of HRA  
MPN Research Foundation  
Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation  
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation  
New York Stem Cell Foundation  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Parkinson's Disease Foundation  
The Pew Biomedical Programs  
Rita Allen Foundation  
Simons Foundation  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
Samuel Waxman Cancer Research 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.

With initial infrastructure support provided by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, 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 13-member board of Directors representing the organizational members of the HRA.

The Alliance has convened two national conferences since it was incorporated: *“Building Strategic Partnerships to Advance Health Research,”* was held at the Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, D.C., in May 2006; and *“Accelerating Medical Discovery Through Strategic Philanthropy,”* was held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. in March, 2008. These conferences featured keynote addresses from Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., currently Director of the National Institutes of Health, Leroy Hood, M.D., Ph.D., Co-Founder and President of the Institute for Systems Biology, Jeffrey Trent, Ph.D., President and Scientific Director, Translational Genomics Research Institute, and other key experts. Additional national conferences open to member and non-member organizations may be convened from time to time to focus on specific topics. HRA convenes meetings of the membership twice a year, hosted by member organizations, usually in March and September. In addition, HRA organizes meetings on specific topics by conference call and webinar throughout the year.

### **Projects:**

The programmatic work of the Alliance is advanced by the Working Groups listed below, which are open to representatives from all member organizations:

- 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 final draft of the inaugural report is being reviewed by the membership.
- The **Grants Administration Working Group** is addressing a wide range of operational issues common to funders of health research. 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 **Early Career Scientists Working Group** provides an opportunity for funders with career development awards to develop common approaches to emerging and evolving issues, to discuss coordination issues that commonly arise when two organizations are funding the same awardee, and to share resources and work together to build community across all of their early career awardees.
- The **Discovery Science Working Group** provides an opportunity for member organizations focused on funding discovery science to discuss issues of common concern and interest, including appropriate methods for evaluation, impact and portfolio analysis of funded discovery science.
- The **Working Group for Funders Focused on Drug and Other Therapy Development** is focusing on sharing methods to accelerate the development of therapeutics, including new models of partnering with donors and investors to move discoveries into application, strategies for pricing drugs developed with nonprofit funds, and identification of appropriate metrics for drug development programs.
- The **Translating Research into Practice and Policy Working Group** is focused on having prevention and outcomes research more quickly adopted into practice and policy, capitalizing on the growing community of researchers, health systems, quality improvement organizations and funders who are focusing on the challenges of scaling-up and adopting these health improvements.

### **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

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