It is widely recognized that non-profit funders of biomedical research play an important role in scientific discovery and efforts to prevent and cure human diseases. However, aggregated data showing the scope and nature of that role have never been available. Until now.

The Health Research Alliance (HRA), a national consortium of non-governmental, non-profit funders of biomedical research and training, currently comprised of 61 organizations, has developed a database called the Grants in the Health Research Alliance Shared Portfolio (gHRAsp) to collect grant information in real-time from its members, many of the most highly respected organizations in the nation. With these data, it is now possible to begin to understand the scope and impact of funding from the non-profit sector.

This report summarizes data from gHRAsp on grants awarded by HRA members from 2006-2012. It includes information from 2012 on the number, cost and types of awards made, as well as characteristics of the investigators funded. It also highlights the impact of the Great Recession on funding. Significant findings from this data include:

- Non-governmental, non-profit funders of biomedical research play a proportionately small but meaningful role in the funding of biomedical research.
- A high percentage of their funding is focused on supporting the career development of new generations of researchers.
- They support the full continuum of biomedical research from basic laboratory research to clinical trials.
- Like federally funded research, the proportion of women funded declines as they become independent investigators and few underrepresented minorities are funded at any level.
- The Great Recession resulted in a dramatic decrease in funding levels, which have recovered significantly, but not completely.

We hope this report helps shed light on the non-profit sector and encourages other organizations to join the HRA and add their data to gHRAsp. Special thanks to the members of the HRA for the collaborative spirit and support that has made gHRAsp possible.

Total support for biomedical research in the U.S. in 2012 = $130.4 billion*.

- $69.2 billion Industry
- $41.1 billion Federal Government
- $17.8 billion Other
- $2.4 billion Foundations & Public Grantmaking Charities

*Source: Research!America
HRA AWARD CHARACTERISTICS IN 2012

In 2012, 46 organizations made 3,206 awards to 2,579 investigators totaling $866 million (36% of non-profit sector funding).

-$151,000  |  24 months
Median Award Size  |  Median Award Duration

Nearly half of the award dollars were for early career development and training, compared to about 5% of NIH grants.

Award funding covers the broad spectrum of basic discovery and translational and clinical research.

Geographic distribution of HRA funding:
- More than $50 million
- Between $10 and $50 million
- Between $1 and $10 million
- Between $500,000 and $1 million
- Less than $500,000

51% Research
44% CD&T*
5% Other

*CD&T: Career Development and Training

Private foundations are more likely to fund basic research, whereas public charities fund more translational and clinical research.

Private foundations

Public fundraising organizations

The majority of funding goes to individual investigators:
- 83% single scientist
- 17% teams of scientists

Similar to the NIH, most HRA funding goes to research-intensive states:
CHARACTERISTICS OF HRA FUNDED INVESTIGATORS IN 2012

Both PhDs and MDs are funded, with a significant majority having PhD-training.

40% overall are female:

Although female investigators are well represented at the training phase of their careers, their representation declines as they become more senior:

Training grants: **47%**

Career development grants: **36%**

Research grants: **33%**

Very few funded investigators are underrepresented minorities.

In the wake of the economic downturn of 2008-2009, HRA member grants dropped precipitously, but have been making a comeback. Award dollars dropped by 34% between 2008 and 2009, but then increased by 26% from 2010 to 2012 (NIH budgets were stagnant over the same period). As of 2012, however, spending had not returned to pre-2009 levels.

Awards for research projects took the hardest hit, while funding for early career investigators was slightly impacted.

Organizations relying exclusively on endowments have recovered more quickly than those that raise funds from the public.
About the Health Research Alliance

Established in 2005, the Health Research Alliance (HRA) is a national consortium of non-governmental, non-profit funders of biomedical research and training. HRA fosters open communication and collaboration among its member organizations, provides comprehensive data and analysis about the funding of biomedical research and training by its member organizations, identifies gaps in funding, facilitates innovative grantmaking, and addresses issues key to accelerating research discovery and its translation. HRA currently has 61 member organizations that represent a mix of private foundations and public charities.

The gHRAsp Database

The Grants in the Health Research Alliance Shared Portfolio (gHRAsp) is an online, searchable database of awards made by HRA member organizations. Similar to the NIH RePORTER, gHRAsp was created to address the lack of consolidated information about the funding of biomedical research and training by the non-profit sector. Member organizations have been submitting data on their awards to gHRAsp since 2006. Access to the gHRAsp database currently is restricted to HRA member organizations.

About this report

This report provides data from gHRAsp on grants awarded from 2006–2012. The first section provides a snapshot of grant and investigator characteristics in 2012, based on data from 46 member organizations. The second section focuses on the impact of the Great Recession using data from 27 member organizations that submitted data to gHRAsp from 2006 through 2012. A report on data from 2006-2008 was published in 2012 (Myers E et al, Similarities and Differences in Philanthropic and Federal Support for Medical Research in the United States: An Analysis of Funding by Non-Profits in 2006-2008, Academic Medicine 2012; 87:1574-1581).

Current HRA Members

Alzheimer’s Association
American Association for Cancer Research Foundation
Alzheimer’s 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
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
The Breast Cancer Research Foundation
BrightFocus Foundation
Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Cancer Research Institute, Inc.
Children’s Tumor Foundation
Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO
CURE/Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy
Cures Within Reach
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
The Donaghue Foundation
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The Ellison Medical Foundation
The Fiinn Foundation
Fondation Leducq
Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc.
The Foundation for Physical Therapy
The Gerber Foundation
The Helmsley Charitable Trust
Hydrocephalus Association
Lacocca Family Foundation
JDRF
The Kavli Foundation
W. M. Keck Foundation
The Klarman Family Foundation
Susan G. Komen
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
LUNGevity Foundation
Lupus Foundation of America
Lymphoma Research Foundation
March of Dimes Foundation
The Medical Foundation, a division of HRiA
Melanoma Research Alliance
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
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Pershing Square Sohn Cancer Research Alliance
The Pew Biomedical Programs
Physicians’ Services Incorporated Foundation
Rheumatology Research Foundation
Rita Allen Foundation
Simons Foundation
St. Baldrick’s Foundation
The V Foundation for Cancer Research
Weston Brain Institute