> From the President

Dear Colleagues:

Did you know that the PhRMA Foundation funded research on Taxol® over 40 years ago that lead to what is now one of the most successful oncology treatments in the world? Or that 70% of the scientists we’ve supported have had their research backed by the NIH?

For more than 50 years, the PhRMA Foundation has been awarding brilliant, budding scientists with research-support grants that help patients around the world live longer, healthier lives. In fact, since our founding, we’ve awarded $83 million in funding to support this critical work (including $3 million last year alone).

Today we provide support for a wide range of research disciplines – from informatics and pharmacology to translational medicine. Remaining nimble in the ever-changing field of health care, this year we also launched an exciting new program designed to address the shift in health care delivery from a volume-based model to a value-based one. The Value Assessment Initiative will provide over $1 million dollars in grants in three categories for research aimed at assessing the value of medicines and health care services to improve patient outcomes and reduce inefficiency.

We hope “PhRMA Foundation News” will raise the visibility of the Foundation and increase awareness about opportunities for funding to support tomorrow’s breakthrough researchers. Past award recipients are today’s trailblazers – making significant drug discoveries, starting and running companies, publishing journals, conducting clinical trials, leading regulatory agencies, and improving the lives of patients around the globe.

You’ll receive the “PhRMA Foundation News” several times a year to keep you updated about Foundation grants and activities as well as the work of our award recipients. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to any researchers you know who are in need of funding to support their work. They could be our next award recipient!

Thank you for your interest in the PhRMA Foundation and our work to advance value-driven health care to ensure a healthier future.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cannon
President
PhRMA Foundation
The delivery of health care in the United States is rapidly shifting from a volume-based to a value-based model, a transition that will certainly impact all health care sectors – from patients to payers to providers. As this trend gathers momentum, there is a pressing need for accurate, transparent information about the value of health interventions.

Recognizing this need, the Foundation has launched the **Value Assessment Initiative**, which will reward researchers who are breaking new ground in determining the meaning and measurement of value in medicines and health care services – with the goal of improving patient outcomes and efficiency in the delivery of health care.

This exciting new funding opportunity, available for the first time in 2017, offers support in three categories:

**Challenge Awards: Up to $50,000**

Support for papers that describe solutions to the following question: What are transformative strategies to measure or evaluate value of health interventions that could be implemented to advance a value-driven health care system in the United States?

**Research Awards: $100,000**

Support for proposals to identify and address challenges in approaches to assess the value of medicines and health care services.

**Center of Excellence Award: $500,000**

Support for the development of a multi-disciplinary, collaborative center that will undertake activities to build evidence, tools and partnerships that can inform value assessment strategies and value-driven decision making.

In a [special article in this year's PhRMA Foundation Annual Report](https://www.phrma.org/foundation-announces-new-value-assessment-initiative), health policy expert Bryan R. Luce, PhD, MBA lauded our new initiative, calling for the research community to develop “creative thinking, out-of-the-box intuition and transformative solutions to adequately capture value” and noting that the PhRMA Foundation’s Value Assessment Initiative is a step in the right direction. “In the fray of health reform, one issue is clear,” he said. “Cost growth is unsustainable and can best be managed by promoting delivery of high value care and avoiding waste in low value care.”

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**Read our Annual Report**

The Foundation recently published its [2016 Annual Report](https://www.phrma.org/2016-annual-report), which provides profiles of our grant and fellowship recipients and highlights of our activities. The report provides details of the research projects currently being pursued by each of our more than 40 funding recipients.

In his [introduction to the report](https://www.phrma.org/2016-annual-report), PhRMA Foundation Chairman Alfred W. Sandrock, MD, PhD, stressed the Foundation’s new emphasis on supporting research aimed at value assessment: “With groundbreaking medicines and rising costs comes the demand to demonstrate value for patients, using robust, reliable, and sound evidence that supports individual needs and preferences…By operating within a patient-centered framework, Foundation researchers are accelerating the shift to a health care system that is based on value, not volume.”

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**Awardee Spotlight**

**Elizabeth Mutter-Rottmayer**

Elizabeth Mutter-Rottmayer, a Toxicology PhD student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was recently awarded the PhRMA Foundation’s competitive pre-doctoral fellowship in Pharmacology/Toxicology.

With the help of her mentor, Dr. Cyrus Vaziri, Liz is currently conducting research to uncover how mechanisms of DNA repair may alter environmental susceptibility as well as the efficacy of chemotherapeutic genotoxins, thus contributing to carcinogenesis.
Liz ultimately wants to utilize an improved understanding of the molecular mechanisms of chemoresistance to develop more effective treatment options for patients.

“Receiving the PhRMA Foundation Award has helped me develop skills to become an independent investigator by supporting my research in identifying cancer cell-specific mechanisms of DNA repair that may help improve cancer treatment,” she said. Liz received her bachelor of science degree in Environmental Toxicology from the University of California, Davis.

> Award Applications are Due September 1!
The application deadline for the Foundation’s awards in Informatics, Pharmaceutics, and Pharmacology/Toxicology is September 1, 2017. To apply, please visit the 2018 awards page at the Foundation’s website.

Questions about how to apply? Click here for our application guide.

Grant Recipients

Congratulations to our 2017 Fellowship and Grant Recipients

PHARMACOLOGY/TOXICOLOGY
- Timothy Baffi
  University of California, San Diego
- Erin Baker
  Northwestern University
- Elizabeth Grace Gibson
  Vanderbilt University
- William Hedrich
  University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Thuy Hoang
  Johns Hopkins University
- Max Joffe, PhD
  Vanderbilt University
- Anthony Jones
  State University of New York, Buffalo
- Jakub Kostal, PhD
  George Washington University
- Jessica Murray
  University of Pennsylvania
- Elizabeth Mutter-Rottmayer
  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Michael Nedelcovych, PhD
  Johns Hopkins University
- Adam Schaenzer
  University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Peter Tonge, PhD
  Stony Brook University
- Jill Rebecca Turner, PhD
  University of South Carolina

PHARMACEUTICS (con’t)
- Christine Lee
  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Naila Mugheirbi, PhD
  Purdue University
- Max Purro
  University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Jennifer Schiller
  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Zachary Warnken, PharmD
  University of Texas, Austin

ADHERENCE IMPROVEMENT
- Adam Sage
  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

HEALTH OUTCOMES
- Joshua D. Brown, PhD
  University of Florida
- Maya Hanna
  University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Wei-Hsuan ‘Jenny’ Lo-Ciganic, PhD
  University of Arizona
- Natalia Olchanski
  Tufts Medical Center
- Nicholas Schiltz, PhD
  Case Western Reserve University

INFORMATICS

PHARMACEUTICS (con’t)
- Christine Lee
  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Naila Mugheirbi, PhD
  Purdue University
- Max Purro
  University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Jennifer Schiller
  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Zachary Warnken, PharmD
  University of Texas, Austin

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  University of Arizona
- Natalia Olchanski
  Tufts Medical Center
- Nicholas Schiltz, PhD
  Case Western Reserve University

INFORMATIC
Jacob Kimmel  
University of California, San Francisco

Jingyi Li, PhD  
University of California, Los Angeles

Daniel Lobo, PhD  
University of Maryland, Baltimore

Benjamin Mueller, PhD  
Vanderbilt University

Jian Peng, PhD  
University of Illinois, Urbana

Bo Zhang  
Pennsylvania State University

PHARMACEUTICS

Eric Appel, PhD  
Stanford University

Joshua Gammon  
University of Maryland, College Park

THERAPEUTICS

Mark T.W. Ebbert, PhD  
Mayo Clinic

Isabel Lam, PhD  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Alan H. Shain, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco

Qun Wang, PhD  
iowa State University of Science & Technology

Norelle Wildburger, PhD  
Washington University

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Nikhil V. Chavali  
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Michael C. Montana, PhD  
Washington University

Richard A. Morgan  
University of California, Los Angeles