

PhRMA FOUNDATION NEWS

Supporting research and early career endeavors of scientists in drug discovery and development

> *From the President*

Dear Colleagues:

As the holiday season begins, we at the Foundation have much to be grateful for – and much to be excited about as 2018 approaches.

We have many new developments to share with you in this issue of *PhRMA Foundation News*, including, most recently, a significant expansion of our communications capabilities. We are committed to raising our visibility in an effort to reach new audiences and widen our potential impact. This newsletter, which we launched in August, is a part of that effort – and just this month we unveiled our [redesigned website](#), which offers many new features and content.



We also are moving forward with generous new funding opportunities, including our newest award – a one-year [Regulatory Science Fellowship within Industry](#) that includes a \$70,000 stipend. We are delighted to be able to offer this new opportunity, which will develop new talent and leadership within an increasingly complex professional sector that is critical to the future of pharmaceutical research.

Our [Value Assessment Initiative \(VAI\)](#) is now in full swing. This effort will provide more than \$1.4 million dollars in grants aimed at assessing the value of medicines and health care services to improve patient outcomes and reduce inefficiency. Four VAI Challenge Awards were announced on September 21, and we are on the cusp of announcing not one, but two Value Assessment Centers of Excellence and three VAI Research Awards.

Soon you will be hearing about our Safe and Effective Prescribing Modules, with case studies and self-assessments provided in conjunction with five specialists.

You can read more about these and other Foundation activities in the articles below, and there will be much more to announce in months to come.

In the meantime, we at the PhRMA Foundation thank all of our alumni, dedicated advisory committee members, and valued partners for helping us as we strive to improve the lives of patients everywhere and advance value-driven health care for all. We wish all of you a warm and joyous holiday season!

Sincerely,
Eileen Cannon
President
PhRMA Foundation

> Award Applications are Due February 1!

The application deadline for the Foundation's awards in [Health Outcomes, Translational Medicine & Therapeutics, and Clinical & Translational Pharmacology](#) is February 1, 2018. To apply, please visit [the Awards page](#) at the Foundation's website.

> One-Year Regulatory Science Fellowships Now Available

The PhRMA Foundation is now funding [one-year, post-doctoral fellowships](#) for individuals interested in pursuing careers in Regulatory Science. The new "Regulatory Science Fellowship within Industry" will provide \$70,000 stipends and place participants in pharmaceutical industry settings, where they will gain hands-on experience working with regulatory science professionals.

Regulatory Science is the science of developing new tools, standards, and approaches to assess the safety, efficacy, quality, and performance of all FDA-regulated products. FDA-regulated products include medical products, such as drugs, devices, and biologics, as well as food, and tobacco products. This program will support Fellows focusing on medicine and medical products exclusively.

The first Fellows will begin working in July 2018, at locations in Maryland, New Jersey or Pennsylvania. **Application deadline for the Fellowship is April 1, 2018.**

Regulatory Science Fellows will be provided a full year of on-site industry experience, working within a global pharmaceutical company's regulatory affairs department. Fellows will work closely with the regulatory science team, where they will participate in intercompany and intracompany initiatives in regulatory science and will benefit from deeply experienced thought leaders in the discipline of regulation. Through this experience, Fellows will gain insight into challenges faced by the pharmaceutical industry globally with respect to regulatory science and policy.

To be eligible, applicants must hold a PhD or appropriate terminal research doctorate in a field related to the proposed activities of the Fellowship or hold a Juris Doctorate (JD) with 1-2 years post-JD experience. The Fellow must be able to relocate to one of three locations – Maryland, New Jersey or Pennsylvania – for the duration of the Fellowship. Applicants must have permanent U.S. work authorization.

For more information or to apply, please visit the [Regulatory Science Fellowship page](#) or call 202-572-7756.



> Visit Our Newly Redesigned Website

In an effort to better serve our stakeholders, we have redesigned the PhRMA Foundation [website](#), with new user-friendly features and content.

The website homepage now offers an easier-to-use navigation bar, with categories that streamline the process of searching for information.

The [Awards page](#), which provides essential information about all of the Foundation's various award categories, has been reorganized to provide key details and deadlines about each award.

A [News section](#) has been added, with updated information about the Foundation's activities and initiatives.

In addition to easy-to-find information for those seeking funding for their projects, the new website also features photos and information about our alumni – who continue to make an important impact in the world of scientific discovery.

We invite you to visit the website at www.phrmafoundation.org and explore our new features. As always, feel free to send any suggestions or feedback to foundation@phrma.org.

Value Assessment

Value Assessment Challenge Award Recipients Announced

The PhRMA Foundation hosted a special briefing in Washington, D.C. September 21 to announce the recipients of its inaugural [Challenge Awards](#). These awards recognize research papers by the best and the brightest leaders and institutions that are identifying transformative solutions to measure value in health care and advance a value-driven health care system.

One of the papers honored has already been [published in a leading journal](#) and others are expected to be published in months to come. We will keep you apprised as the work of these leaders is recognized.

The Challenge Awards are the first phase in the multi-year [Value Assessment Initiative](#) that will award more than \$1.4 million to advance the field of value assessment.

National health policy experts Kavita Patel, MD, MPH and Bryan R. Luce, PhD, MBA joined the winners for a morning of presentations on their research papers and a roundtable discussion about value assessment and its impact on health care. [A slide presentation with more information about the winners and their work is available here.](#)

The winners included:

FIRST PLACE (two winners, tied)

Altarum: "A Framework for Measuring Low-Value Care." Altarum's winning paper examined existing methods for measuring low-value health care and described new methods for estimating and tracking the magnitude and principal sources of clinical waste.

National Eczema Association: "Improving Value for Eczema Patients." The National Eczema Association's (NEA) paper summarized its plan to establish a Shared Decision-Making Resource Center, a transformative strategy that can evaluate value of health care interventions for eczema patients.

SECOND PLACE

National Health Council and University of Maryland School of Pharmacy: "Emerging Good Practices for Transforming Value Assessment: Patients' Voices, Patients' Values." The National Health Council's (NHC) paper described its "value workgroup," which is increasing engagement between stakeholders on value-driven care, with an emphasis on engaging patients.

THIRD PLACE

University of Michigan: "Patient Report Outcome Measures to Advance a Value-Driven Health Care System." The University of Michigan's paper examined the impact of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs), which could be implemented across health care systems to advance value-driven care.

For more information, please visit the Foundation's [Value Assessment Initiative web page](#).

Awardee Spotlight

Jeff Conn: 1989 Foundation Awardee Wins Top National Honor

One of the most rewarding aspects of the work we do at the PhRMA Foundation is watching the progress of our alumni – who are often supported early in their careers and later go on to make significant contributions to science.

One recent example is **P. Jeffrey Conn, PhD**, founding director of the Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery, who recently received [PhRMA's 2017 Research & Hope Award](#) for Excellence in Academic Research.

Dr. Conn received a Research Starter Grant in Pharmacology/Toxicology in 1989, and since then he has advanced steadily to become one of the nation's leading researchers in the area of mental health. Dr. Conn and his colleagues at Vanderbilt have pioneered a novel approach to treating neurological and psychiatric disorders using compounds called allosteric modulators.



The researchers have discovered promising candidates for treating a wide range of disorders, including Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease and Fragile X syndrome.

One of these candidates, currently advancing through regulatory studies required before the start of clinical trials, could provide a fundamentally new approach for treatment of psychosis in patients suffering from schizophrenia and other forms of major mental illness.

"The PhRMA Foundation has had a tremendous impact on my career," he said. "My very first grant, when I started a new research lab at Emory University, was from the Foundation, and through the years the Foundation has continued to support our work."

"The Foundation has long been a leader in supporting cutting edge biomedical research that is leading to discovery of life-saving medicines," he said.

Dr. Conn received a PhD in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt in 1986 and pursued postdoctoral studies at Yale University before joining the faculty in Pharmacology at Emory University in 1988.

He returned to Vanderbilt in 2003, where he helped found the Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery. By 2011 the center had grown to approximately 100 full-time scientists and had raised more than \$100 million in external funding.

"To be selected for this honor is a major highlight of my career," Dr. Conn said. To watch a video about Dr. Conn and the Research & Hope Award, click the image above or click [here](#).

> **New Awardees of Foundation Fellowships and Grants to be announced in January**

The Foundation is currently busy finalizing awards for its most recent fellowship and grant applicants – a group of some of the most talented young scientists in the nation. We expect to formally announce the recipients of our 2018 awards in January, and will send you the complete list via *PhRMA Foundation News*.

> **Help Sustain our Impact by Donating to the Foundation**

Thousands of young scientists have benefited from the support of the PhRMA Foundation since our inception more than 50 years ago – and their work has demonstrably improved the landscape of medical discovery, helping save lives and give patients hope. Our investment in this talent is made possible by generous donations, and you can be a part of it...A donation to the Foundation is 100% tax deductible – and it is a wonderful way to give back.

We make it easy to donate – simply [visit this webpage](#) for more information. Or, call us at 202-572-7756 to discuss ways you can give. We appreciate it!

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

Visit our website for more information

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