

August 3, 2018

PhRMA FOUNDATION NEWS

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

> *From the President*

Dear Colleagues:

The PhRMA Foundation has much to share with you this summer as we prepare for another busy season of funding decisions and the launch of new programs.

We have just released our [2017 Annual Report](#) and encourage you to peruse it to learn more about the talented individuals and worthy programs we are funding. These are the bright stars of the future in biopharmaceutical research and you will be inspired by their stories.



Deadlines for applications for our [Informatics, Pharmaceutics and Pharmacology/Toxicology programs](#) are approaching fast – September 1 – and we encourage you to forward this information on to anyone who may be interested in these generous awards.

We are very excited about our new Safe and Effective Prescribing Initiative, which will launch this fall and will provide a much-needed online learning resource for medical students, residents, practicing physicians and others on this incredibly important topic. National experts have recorded presentations that provide detailed instruction on topics ranging from obstetric pharmacology to clinically important drug reactions.

We will also be starting a new round of funding in our [Value Assessment initiative](#), which to date has provided more than \$1.4 million to foster the development of transformative, value-based care models.

You can read more about all of these activities below.

We continue to pursue our mission with passion, because we know that Foundation support is making a huge difference in moving innovative research forward.

Foundation scientists are inspiring groundbreaking discoveries in all areas of biomedical research. But they know as well as we do that great ideas and novel concepts need solid backing to thrive.

Scientists whose projects fall outside of government research priorities are regularly turned away. With agency funding out of reach, novel concepts often dissolve, quickly and quietly. That's why Foundation funding is so important. Young researchers with great ideas need our help. We continue to support a diverse range of research and catalyze innovative ideas that push the boundaries of science.

Please help us continue that work by forwarding this newsletter on to a colleague who might benefit from Foundation support.

We'll be back in the fall with much more great news. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of summer.

Sincerely,
Eileen Cannon
President
PhRMA Foundation

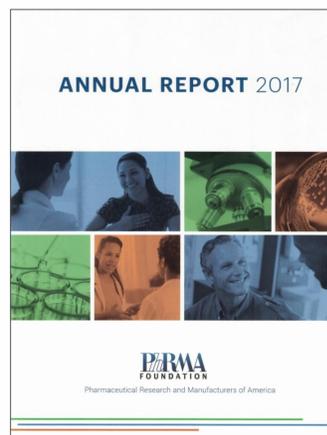
> **Foundation Releases 2017 Annual Report**

The PhRMA Foundation has released its [2017 Annual Report](#), highlighting the work of its grant awardees and progress on other initiatives and projects. The Foundation awarded more than \$3 million last year in funding to support the research projects of early career scientists and to advance important health care initiatives, including improving value in health care.

The Foundation provided more than 40 awards, grants and fellowships, supporting work in pharmacology and toxicology, clinical pharmacology, health outcomes, informatics, pharmaceuticals, translational medicine and therapeutics, and value assessment.

"The PhRMA Foundation's funding programs have for more than 50 years supported the best and the brightest scientists advancing innovations that improve the lives of patients and families, said PhRMA Foundation Chairman **Alfred W. Sandrock, MD, PhD**. "Our latest awardees and grant recipients continue this story of achievement and we are confident their work will make an enormous difference in improving health care in the United States and the world."

The report lists the names of all its 2017 grant recipients, along with information about their research programs. Also included are details about progress in the Foundation's multi-faceted Value Assessment Initiative, and profiles of its two latest Awards in Excellence recipients -- **J. Craig Venter, PhD** and **Craig W. Hendrix, MD**.



> **Award Applications are Due September 1!**

The application deadline for the Foundation's awards in Informatics, Pharmaceuticals, and Pharmacology/Toxicology is **September 1, 2018**. These fellowship awards provide generous multi-year funding for promising researchers. To apply, please visit our [awards page](#) at the Foundation's website.

> **New Safe and Effective Prescribing Online Course to Launch this Fall**

The Association of American Medical Colleges has reported that there is a lack of sufficient training in safe and effective prescribing in the U.S. medical school curriculum.

Recognizing this as important health care issue, the PhRMA Foundation will launch **free online course modules in safe and effective prescribing** this fall – targeted to meet the needs of medical students, physicians, nurse practitioners and pharmacists nationwide.



The multi-media modules will include video presentations by nationally recognized experts in various pharmacological disciplines, case studies, examinations and other supplemental resources.

The objective of these recordings is to better prepare current and future prescribers to consider their patients' best interests, maximize efficacy, and minimize toxicity, addressing topics such as pediatric and geriatric prescribing, special populations, and adverse reactions.

Stay tuned for more details from the Foundation in coming weeks.

Value Assessment

Learn More About Our Value Assessment Initiative

Concern over rising health care costs has increased interest in promoting high-quality care, while avoiding low value or inefficient care. As the U.S. health care system encourages value-driven decision-making, it is important that information on value of health care interventions be robust, transparent and address the needs of all health care stakeholders, including patients, payers and providers.

In response, the PhRMA Foundation launched its Value Assessment Initiative, which is funding the development of transformative, multi-stakeholder-driven solutions to address challenges in assessing the value of medicines and health care services to improve patient outcomes and reduce inefficiency.

The initiative offers three separate award programs: Center of Excellence Awards, Research Awards and Challenge Awards.

In 2017 the initiative launched the opening of two new Value Assessment Centers of Excellence – one to be administered by the **University of Maryland at Baltimore** and the other by **Altarum**, a nonprofit health systems research and consulting firm in partnership with VBID Health. Each center received \$500,000 in funding beginning in 2018 for three years.

We also funded the work of other leading researchers who are breaking new ground in the emerging field of value assessment. To date, we have provided more than \$1.4 million in support of value assessment efforts.

Visit our [Value Assessment page](#) at the Foundation's website to learn more.

Awardee Spotlight

Hunter Shain: Breaking New Ground on Gene Patterns in Malignant Skin Cancer

PhRMA Foundation grant awardees continue to make headlines in genomic research. One example is **Hunter Shain, PhD**, a cancer geneticist at the University of California San Francisco who is part of a team at the University of California San Francisco that has published groundbreaking research on gene patterns in malignant skin cancer.

Dr. Shain, who received a 2017 Research Starter Grant in Translational Medicine & Therapeutics from the Foundation, helped identify the sequence of genetic changes that transform benign moles into malignant skin cancer. The team has used gene editing to recreate the steps of melanoma evolution one by one in normal human skin cells in the lab.

You can read more about Dr. Shain's work – including links to his recently published research – by [visiting his profile at our website](#).



> 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.

For more information about donating, you can visit our [Shape the Future](#) page. 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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