

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 in this issue of *PhRMA Foundation News*, particularly about our [Value Assessment Initiative](#), which continues to grow and is moving in exciting new directions as we seek a more value-based decision-making environment for patient care.

Our partners at our four [Value Assessment Centers of Excellence](#) shared highlights of their work at the recent national conference of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). Helped by \$2 million in funding from the Foundation, they are pursuing new innovations that will benefit biopharmaceutical research and development tremendously. You can read about their efforts below.

Our value assessment work was the topic of [a recent commentary I wrote](#) for the *Value & Outcomes Spotlight*, an ISPOR publication, including a discussion of a key challenge in value-assessment: How do we find alternatives to commonly used metrics such as Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs)? In a rapidly changing health care environment, we need new approaches to value-metrics – and our Centers of Excellence are focusing intently on this question.

We announced the [winners of our 2019 Value Assessment Challenge Awards](#) last month. Designed to encourage innovative approaches in defining and measuring value in health care, this year's awards focused on novel proposals to improve value assessment methods that move beyond the quality-adjusted life year (QALY).

Our new [Research Awards in Value Assessment](#) have been announced – the deadline for letters of intent is right around the corner (August 1) – and we are hard at work organizing a Value Assessment conference, to be held Nov. 12 in Washington, D.C. We are still finalizing the agenda, but in general, the conference will inform stakeholders about useful tools and findings PhRMA Foundation grant recipients are developing to overcome shortcomings of current approaches to value assessment.

There will be much more to share in months to come, including our launch of a new Foundation blog and improvements to our website that will make it easier for you to learn the latest advances in value assessment research.

You can read more about our value assessment efforts in the articles that follow, along with these other highlights:



- Our [Annual Report](#), which offers comprehensive information about the scientists and projects we have funded over the last year, as well as information more information about our Value Assessment efforts.
- Our latest alumni news, including profiles of [Sam Emaminejad, PhD](#), of UCLA; and [Mark Ebbert, PhD](#), of the Mayo Clinic.
- Updated information and details about our [Pharmaceutics, Informatics and Pharmacology/Toxicology awards](#). The deadline for these awards is **September 1, 2019**, and we encourage you to consider applying or let your friends and colleagues know about these opportunities. As always, we hope you will encourage your colleagues to consider Foundation funding for their projects.
- A list of [all of our most recent award recipients](#).

Since the Foundation began its work, we have invested more than \$90 million in advancing the innovations and discoveries of the nation's most talented researchers. Today this effort is more important than ever – and we are excited to be exploring new directions in 2019 that are certain to bring new hope to patients and their families.

As always, we are grateful to our alumni for their inspiring work, and to our contributing members for their financial support.

Sincerely,
Eileen Cannon
President
PhRMA Foundation

Value Assessment



Foundation-supported Centers of Excellence Highlighted at ISPOR Meeting

Advancement in the area of value assessment in health care took the spotlight in several discussions featured recently at the 2019 national conference of the **International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)** in New Orleans.

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Foundation President Eileen Cannon Outlines Value Assessment Goals in Value & Outcomes Spotlight

To drive true health care reform in the United States, value assessments of health care treatments must be based on strong methods and patient preferences: That's the message of a recent commentary penned by PhRMA Foundation President **Eileen Cannon** for *Value & Outcomes Spotlight* – a publication of ISPOR.

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2019 Value Assessment Research Award Recipients Announced

The PhRMA Foundation has announced the recipients of \$300,000 in funding for research projects that yield new strategies for assessing the value of medicines and

health care services – as a part of its comprehensive Value Assessment Initiative. Three research leaders will receive one-year grants of \$100,000 each for their projects. The recipients are **Louis P. Garrison, PhD**, of the University of Washington; **Eleanor Perfetto, PhD**, of the National Health Council; and **Quang A. Le, PharmD, PhD**, of the Western University of Health Science.

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Foundation Releases 2018 Annual Report, Highlighting Busy Year

The PhRMA Foundation has released its [2018 Annual Report](#), highlighting the work of its grant awardees and progress on other initiatives and projects. The Foundation awarded millions last year in funding to support the research projects of early-career scientists and to advance important health care initiatives, including improving value assessment in health care.

Awardee Spotlight

Mark Ebbert, PhD: Helping Make Inroads in the Fight Against Alzheimer's Disease

Mark Ebbert, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Neuroscience with the Mayo Clinic. He received a 2017 Research Starter Grant in Translational Medicine and Therapeutics.

Dr. Ebbert's research is focused strongly on Alzheimer's and helping medicine better understand the origins of this deadly disease.

Dr. Ebbert and his co-authors recently published new research on camouflaged genes that could impact neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's. [You can read the article in the journal Genome Biology.](#)

[Watch a short video](#) in which Dr. Ebbert discusses the impact of the PhRMA Foundation on his work here.



Sam Emmanizad, PhD: Advancing the Science of Personalized and Precision Medicine

Sam Emaminejad, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department at UCLA and the founder and director of the Interconnected & Integrated Bioelectronics Lab. His lab focuses on the development of an ecosystem of integrated wearable, mobile, and in-vivo physiological and environmental



monitoring platforms to enable personalized and precision medicine.

Dr. Emaminejad, who received a PhRMA Research Starter Grant in Translational Medicine and Therapeutics in 2018, has received numerous honors and awards, including a Distinguished Young Investigator Award for leading a multi-center program on remote patient monitoring with UCLA, Intermountain Healthcare and Stanford School of Medicine. He recently discussed his work in [a short online video](#).

Congratulations to All of Our Latest PhRMA Foundation Award Recipients!

We send hearty congratulations to our 2019 award recipients – who represent the best and brightest in scientific research. Please click the box below to see the full list of all the award recipients and their institutions.

[View Full List of Award Recipients](#)

Applications for Foundation Awards in Pharmaceuticals, Informatics and Pharmacology/Toxicology Now Open; Deadline is September 1



Applications for three PhRMA Foundation 2020 award programs are now available and the deadline for applications is **September 1, 2019**. The programs are:

- **Pharmaceuticals**
- **Informatics**
- **Pharmacology/Toxicology**

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And, of course, you can always donate anytime [here](#). The PhRMA Foundation is a 501c3 and your donation is 100% tax deductible.



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[Questions about how to apply? Click here for our application guide.](#)

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PhRMA Foundation | Phone: 202-572-7756 | Email: foundation@phrma.org

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