

May 8, 2020

PhRMA FOUNDATION NEWS

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

> *From the President*

Dear Colleagues:

As the nation faces the challenge of the COVID-19 crisis, we at the PhRMA Foundation are working remotely – like so many of you – and continuing our operational functions. We are committed to ensuring that the funding we provide is available, at a time when support for scientific research is more important than ever.



Our grant-funding processes remain in place, and support for awardees has not been impacted. Importantly, the Foundation's implementation of its new mission, awards and funding structure – which we announced late last year -- is continuing. We are moving full-bore ahead, and in this issue of our newsletter we offer details about new funding opportunities available to researchers.

Here are just a few highlights:

[Our Value Assessment Initiative](#) continues to break new ground in being more patient-centered. This newsletter shares ideas and activities of our [Value Assessment Centers of Excellence](#) leaders, whose work is gaining media attention. The [Voices in Value Blog](#) is up and running. We will soon announce the latest in our series of national "Challenge Questions" which prompt researchers to submit cutting-edge solutions to issues in decision making based on health care value.

In this edition of the newsletter we offer details of two of our new research awards: [Drug Delivery and Drug Discovery](#). We are now offering generous funding for promising researchers in both of these areas, and we encourage you to consider applying or letting your colleagues know about these opportunities. Please note that the deadline for initial applications is **May 15, 2020**.

The funding deadline recently closed for two other new programs – [Health Outcomes Research](#) and [Translational Medicine](#) – and we received many promising applications.

One of the most rewarding parts of my work at the Foundation is getting to know the people behind the research we support – the hardworking scientists whose dedication, passion and creativity is ultimately aimed at improving the lives of others. Often, the funding we provide early in a young researcher's life helps open doors that launch inspiring careers – and in this issue of our newsletter we feature an example: [Gary O. Rankin, PhD](#), who we first supported in 1979 and who went on to make noteworthy contributions in the field of Toxicology. In addition to our salute to Dr. Rankin in this issue, you can also read about [our latest awardees](#) – many of whom are just beginning their

work and, we hope, will have careers as distinguished as Dr. Rankin's, helped along by PhRMA Foundation funding.

Today, in the face of the health crisis our world is facing, the contributions of dedicated and hardworking researchers are needed more than ever. If you or your organization is working on a research project that is related to COVID-19, please send us an email at foundation@phrma.org with information about your efforts, as we continue to track the work of our alumni.

Above all else, stay safe and healthy during these challenging times.

Sincerely,
Eileen Cannon
President
PhRMA Foundation

Value Assessment



Final Challenge Award Papers Published in *American Journal Of Managed Care* Series

Last year, the Foundation launched the latest in its ongoing national effort to stimulate new thinking in value assessment, with the [2019 Challenge Awards](#). We awarded \$85,000 to promising researchers who submitted a paper answering the question, "What are innovative, patient-centered approaches to contribute to health care value assessment that move beyond the inherent limitations of analyses based on the quality-adjusted life year (QALY) metric?"

The winning papers have appeared in a special series in the *American Journal of Managed Care (AJMC)*. The final article in the series, titled "Evaluation of Medical Technologies with Uncertain Benefits," by **Darius N. Lakdawalla, PhD**, and **Charles E. Phelps, PhD**, was recently published by *AJMC*.

[Read All of the Articles Here](#)

In the News: Media Covers the Work of Our Centers of Excellence in Value Assessment

The PhRMA Foundation's four [Centers of Excellence in Value Assessment](#) continue to break new ground in determining value in health care – and they are receiving increasing visibility in the media:

- A new report from the [Research Consortium for Healthcare Value Assessment](#) found that low value care is highly prevalent across the nation, and that residents in the north and southeast are more likely to receive a low-value health care service than those living in western and Midwestern states. The report can be viewed [HERE](#). *Modern Healthcare* [highlighted the report](#) earlier this year.
- The [Patient-Driven Values in Healthcare Evaluation \(PAVE\)](#) center's efforts to identify patient-driven value elements for treatments for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were highlighted in an op-ed by **Eleanor Perfetto** and **Elisabeth Oehrlein** of the National Health Council. Writing in *Morning Consult*, Drs. Perfetto and Oehrlein discussed the need for value assessments to meaningfully incorporate patient perspectives and highlighted the NHC's partnership with PAVE to that effect. You can read the op-ed [HERE](#).
- **Dr. Susan dosReis**, Director of PAVE, wrote about the need for greater inclusion of

the patient voice in value assessment research in *Managed Care Magazine*. You can read her op-ed [HERE](#).

- PAVE's **Dr. Joey Mattingly** teamed up with **Brett McQueen** of **pVALUE** – another PhRMA Foundation Center of Excellence -- to write an op-ed in *Fierce Healthcare* discussing how the comparative effectiveness research platform built by PCORI can be better leveraged to advance patient-centered values in value assessment models. You can read their piece [HERE](#).

Web-Based Tool Visualizes Low-Value Spending

The [Research Consortium for Healthcare Value Assessment](#) has launched a new open-source, web-based tool that enables organizations to visualize their spending on low value health care services. [The Low Value Care Visualizer](#) is free and available to all.



[Read More](#)

Watch Videos About the Work of Our Centers of Excellence

To better understand the work and goals of our Centers of Excellence in Value Assessment, take a few minutes to watch a series of informative videos by clicking the Watch Videos box below.

[Watch Videos](#)



Applications for Drug Delivery and Drug Discovery Awards Open; Deadline is May 15

Applications for our two newest PhRMA Foundation 2020 award programs – in Drug Delivery and Drug Discovery -- are now available online and the deadline for applying is **May 15, 2020**.

Funding of up to \$100,000 is available, with categories including pre/postdoctoral fellowships and research starter grants. Predoctoral awards will provide \$25,000 per year in funding for up to two years; postdoctoral awards will provide \$50,000 per year in funding for up to two years; and research starter grants will provide \$100,000 in funding for one year.

[Learn More](#)

Foundation No Longer Offering Funding in Three Categories

As a part of its new mission and funding structure, the Foundation will no longer be offering grants in the previous categories of **Pharmaceutics**, **Pharmacology/Toxicology** and **Informatics**.



Our new line-up of categories for funding includes Drug Delivery and Drug Discovery, along with Health Outcomes Research, Translational Medicine and Value Assessment. A new category in the Use and Application of Data and Technology in Health Care will be announced later this year. To learn more, visit our awards page.

[Learn More](#)

Awardee Spotlight



Gary O. Rankin, PhD: Helping Advance Understanding of Chemicals Toxic to the Kidneys

Gary O. Rankin, PhD, is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University. Dr. Rankin, who received a Research Starter Grant from the Foundation in 1979, has had a distinguished career as a scientist, with his research focused primarily on the bioactivation of chemicals (drugs, agricultural agents, industrial intermediates) to metabolites that are toxic to the kidney.

[Read More](#)

Congratulations to the These New PhRMA Foundation Funding Recipients!

We send hearty congratulations to our 2020 award recipients in Health Outcomes Research, Informatics, Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology/Toxicology, Translational Medicine and Value Assessment – 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.

[See Full List of Awardees](#)

Have You Been Published Recently?

The PhRMA Foundation is always interested in the achievements of its alumni. Please send us a PDF of your recently published work – or a link to the website where we can find it – and we will add you to our highlighted research page at:

<http://www.phrmafoundation.org/research-archive>.

Consider Donating to the Foundation

For the past 55 years, the PhRMA Foundation has provided grants and fellowships to more than 2,400 young scientists to further their careers in pharmaceutical research. There are several ways you can support us:

- Donate via PayPal by clicking [here](#).
- You may give throughout the year using [AmazonSmiles](#). Amazon will donate .5% of eligible purchases to the PhRMA Foundation when you select us as your favorite charity. Details of how to link to your phone app can be found [here](#).
- You may mail a check to the PhRMA Foundation at 950 F Street NW, Suite 300, Washington DC 20004.
- Contact Joanne Westphal if you are interested in a legacy gift to the Foundation. She can be reached at jwestphal@phrmafoundation.org or 202-572-7756.



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

Visit our website for more information

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