

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 been busy this spring fulfilling its mission of supporting the nation's best and brightest young scientists. I am excited to share with you an update on what we've been up to recently:



- The unprecedented events of 2020 – from the COVID-19 pandemic to a nationwide reckoning with systemic racism in health care – have magnified the urgent need to rethink our conceptions of health care value in a more inclusive context. To help meet this challenge, the Foundation has established a new Challenge Award program seeking proposals for how value assessment can better capture evidence regarding diverse populations and drivers of health disparities. You can read more about the bold and vital research we're funding in the stories below.
- Our [Value Assessment Initiative](#) continues to thrive, as leaders at the Foundation's four [Centers of Excellence](#) contribute new analysis, research and commentary to the national dialogue with the aim of making value assessment more representative of the patient perspective. Since the launch of the Value Assessment Initiative, the Foundation has distributed over \$4 million in grants and awards – including \$1.3 million in 2020 alone – to researchers and institutions who are at the forefront of this shift.
- Our recently restructured grants and fellowship awards program, which was updated to better reflect the needs of today's biopharmaceutical research environment, is now fully engaged and distributing generous awards in new categories – such as Drug Delivery and Drug Discovery. Our first award recipients in these categories began to receive funding in January, and we have opened the application process for the next cycle of funding.
- As we are all aware, vaccines have been a highly significant topic this year as the United States embarks on what is perhaps the largest mass immunization campaign in history. In this issue, we feature an interview with Christopher Jewell, PhD, a PhRMA Foundation alumnus and past Research Starter Grant recipient who is currently advancing important research impacting immunology and vaccine development at the University of Maryland.

As 2021 marches on, and COVID-19 vaccinations continue apace, we must not forget that the United States – and much of the world – is still facing one of the greatest health challenges in history. All of us must remain focused on this national emergency, doing our

part as we strive to overcome the pandemic.

Something we can all take pride in is that our colleagues in drug discovery and drug development – those hard-working researchers who made the exciting new vaccines possible – have given the entire world a much-needed ray of hope. Once again, we are reminded that the work of the nation’s scientific research community is vitally important and must be supported.

Sincerely,
Eileen Cannon
President
PhRMA Foundation

Value Assessment



Foundation Names Recipients of New Diversity in Value Assessment Challenge Award

The Foundation has announced the recipients of its new [Valuing Diversity: Addressing Health Disparities Challenge Award](#), which aims to support bold and vital research that evaluates how the value assessment field can better serve diverse populations and address drivers of health disparities.

This effort is part of the Foundation’s renewed focus on health care equity. We look forward to playing an important role in supporting the development of methods and processes for value assessment that are inclusive of all patient communities.

For this year’s award, the Foundation invited applicants to submit proposals that addressed the following question:

How can value assessment methods and processes better account for populations that are typically underrepresented in research and address drivers of health disparities?

This year’s winning proposals are:

First Place: Drivers of Health Disparities and Consequences for COVID-19 Vaccine Choices: Modelling Health Preference Heterogeneity among Underserved Populations

- **Eline M. van den Broek-Altenburg, PhD**, Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont
- **Jamie S. Benson, BA**, Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont
- **Adam J. Atherly, PhD**, Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont
- **Stephane Hess, PhD**, Choice Modelling Centre & Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds

Second Place: Using Latent Class and Quantum Models to Value Equity in Healthcare: A Tale of Two Stories

- **Surachat Ngorsuraches, PhD** – Auburn University

Third Place (tie): It’s Time to Represent: Shifting the Paradigm to Improve the Quality of Inputs into Value Assessment Frameworks

- **Leticia R. Moczygamba, PharmD, PhD** – TxCORE, The University of Texas at Austin
- **Carolyn M. Brown, PhD** – TxCORE, The University of Texas at Austin

- **Michael Johnsrud, PhD, RPh** – TxCORE, The University of Texas at Austin

Third Place (tie): Incorporating Health Equity into Value Assessment: Frameworks, Promising Alternatives, and Future directions

- **Vakaramoko Diaby, PhD** – University of Florida
- **Askal Ali, PhD** – Florida A&M University
- **Aram Babcock, PharmD, MS, MBA** – University of Florida
- **Joseph Fuhr, PhD** – University of Florida
- **Dejana Braithwaite, PhD** – University of Florida

To learn more about this year's award winners and their research proposals, see the Foundation's [official announcement](#).

To learn more about why the Foundation launched this new award, check out the following blog post: [Valuing Diversity in Value Assessment](#).

New Horizons for the Value Assessment Initiative

The Foundation's efforts to advance new research and innovations in value assessment accelerated in 2020 and we have much news to report.

We are proud to announce that we have now surpassed \$4 million – including \$1.3 million in 2020 alone – in funding awarded to researchers and institutions who are working on new, innovative value assessment strategies. Click the links below to see lists of all the award recipients who have received funding since we launched the Challenge and Research awards:

[Challenge Award Recipients](#)

[Research Award Recipients](#)

Throughout the year, our [Voices in Value blog](#) continues to feature guest contributors who discuss how their research is making the field more transparent, more inclusive, and better representative of the individuals for whom value assessment is most important. Visit the blog [HERE](#).

And the Foundation's Centers of Excellence continue to produce insightful research and new ideas for improving the field of value assessment. Just a few highlights from recent activity in various public forums include:

- [Toward Modified Impact Inventory Tables to Facilitate Patient-Centered Value Assessment](#)... R. Brett McQueen and Julia F. Slejko explore the concept of modifying impact inventory tables to increase “patient-centricity” in value assessment.
- [Value Assessment That Puts Patients at the Forefront](#)... Linda Bohannon and Elizabeth Franklin take an in-depth look at living with a life-changing disease, and how the treatments of those diseases focus too narrowly on clinical outcomes.
- [Prioritization and Refinement of Patient-Informed Value Elements as Attributes for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Treatment Preferences](#)... Julia F. Slejko, Yoon Duk Hong, Jamie L. Sullivan, Robert M. Reed and Susan dosReis examined value assessment in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Their study illustrated a process for better eliciting and refining value elements.
- [A Practical Path Forward to More Patient-Centered Value Assessment](#)... Sachin Kamal-Bahl and Bryan Luce call for the establishment of a common repository of patient-centered-outcomes (PCOs).

You can read a complete round-up of all the Centers of Excellence activities in 2020

[HERE.](#)

And stay tuned for more details about the Value Assessment Initiative's upcoming virtual series on the topic of Patient Centered Outcomes, which will be hosted later this year. Details for how to register will be coming soon!

Transition of Foundation's New Award Categories Continues

Beginning with the 2021 award cycle, the PhRMA Foundation is no longer providing funding in Pharmacology/Toxicology, Pharmaceuticals and Informatics.

The Foundation is now providing funding in new programs for young researchers who are focused on Drug Delivery and Drug Discovery – along with our ongoing categories of Health Outcomes Research, Translational Medicine and Value Assessment.



The latest award recipients in Health Outcomes Research and Translational Medicine include:

Health Outcomes Research

- **Cassidi McDaniel**, Predoctoral Fellowship, Auburn University
- **Vasco Pontinha**, Predoctoral Fellowship, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy
- **Woojung Lee, PharmD**, Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Washington
- **Hanxi Zhang**, Predoctoral Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin
- **Marissa Seamans, PhD**, Research Starter Grant, University of California Los Angeles
- **Jakub Hlavka, PhD**, Research Starter Grant, University of Southern California
- **Douglas Barthold, PhD**, Research Starter Grant, University of Washington

Translational Medicine

- **Asmi Chakraborty, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Florida International University Board of Trustees
- **Marwah Karim, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University School of Medicine
- **Bailee Silker, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Research Institute of Fox Chase Cancer Center
- **Bishuang Cai, PhD**, Research Starter Grant, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Opportunities for awards distributed through the Foundation's Value Assessment Initiative will continue to be updated and announced as they become available.

[Learn More](#)

Foundation Awards More Than \$1



Million to Support Young Scientists with Grants and Fellowships in Drug Discovery and Delivery

The PhRMA Foundation has announced the first recipients of its new funding awards in Drug Discovery and Drug Delivery, designed to support the innovative biopharmaceutical research projects of talented young scientists in the United States.

Out of nearly 400 candidates for funding, the Foundation chose a total of 16 recipients – nine for funding in Drug Discovery and seven for funding in Drug Delivery. Predoctoral fellowships will provide \$25,000 per year in funding for up to two years; postdoctoral fellowships 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.

A total of more than \$1 million was awarded.

Please click “See Recipients” below to see a full list of award recipients and their institutions.

[See Recipients](#)

We are happy to announce that the application process for 2022 grants in the new Drug Discovery and Drug Delivery programs is now open!

Apply now for 2022 awards in [Drug Discovery](#) and [Drug Delivery](#). You can also learn more about these awards, and others offered by the PhRMA Foundation, [HERE](#).

To be considered for funding in Drug Discovery and Drug Delivery, applicants must submit a letter of intent, due **May 20, 2021**. Those whose submissions are selected will be notified by **July 1, 2021** and asked to complete a full application. All applicants for PhRMA Foundation awards (U.S. and non-U.S. citizens) must attend a U.S. university or research institution based in the United States.

Awardee Spotlight



Christopher Jewell, PhD: Bridging Engineering and Biology

Christopher M. Jewell, PhD, a PhRMA Foundation alumnus who received a Research Starter Grant in Pharmaceuticals, has emerged in recent years to become a national leader in bioengineering – using the unique properties of biomaterials as tools to study immune processes and to direct immune-signaling.

This work has been of particular importance in the area of vaccine research. His unique skill and research capabilities recently earned him distinction as the Miegunyah

Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the University of Melbourne, where he will spend a year working on new vaccine technologies in the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity. We recently held a virtual sit-down with Dr. Jewell to talk about his work. Read

the interview by clicking "Read More" below.

Read More

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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