

PhRMA FOUNDATION NEWS

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

> *From the President*

Building on Our Little-Known History

The PhRMA Foundation has quietly been doing its work for 56 years. When I joined as its President earlier this year, I was immediately impressed by the impact the organization has made over the course of its history, having not just funded more than 2,400 scientists across more than 300 institutions but also catalyzing new fields and new careers in biopharmaceutical innovation.



The organization has kept a relatively low profile so awareness of its impact pales in comparison to the actual impact of its long-term programs – but I intend to highlight that story as we chart the course into the next five decades.

Fostering New Fields

It may come as a surprise that the PhRMA Foundation was born from the thalidomide tragedy, which leaders in the industry recognized could forever harm trust in new medicines. They created a body that would ultimately become the PhRMA Foundation to harness science to understand and prevent tragic adverse events in the future. The Foundation brought together top researchers from industry and academia and they conceived of and fostered the field of toxicology, which today plays a critical role in ensuring medication safety.

More recently, the Foundation has helped advance the field of value assessment, supporting the development of tools and frameworks for understanding the value of medicines and other health care services. The work we have funded helps the health care system collectively move towards a more value-driven approach that prioritizes both scientific evidence and patient preferences to improve outcomes and ensure health care dollars are well spent.

Catalyzing New Careers

The Foundation's grants also transform the careers of researchers. These are generally scientists early in their careers – grad students, new PhDs, post-docs, or first-year faculty members. Many of the more than 2,400 scientists funded have gone on to do important work developing drugs, founding companies, running successful academic laboratories and non-profit research institutions. Perhaps the best-known recipient is Arthur Hayes, MD, who served as an FDA commissioner during the 1980s and subsequently served as Provost and Dean of the New York Medical College. But he is not alone – some of the biggest names in life sciences today were once PhRMA Foundation grantees, including Dr. Craig Venter, Dr. Stephen Spielberg, Dr. Raymond Woolsey and Dr. Susan Band Horowitz.

The Foundation has also looked to reduce disparities in scientific research funding. Today, roughly half of our grants go to women scientists, and roughly half go to people of color. PhRMA Foundation grants, given early in careers, are useful in helping promising researchers attract subsequent dollars to fund additional research projects. Today we are expanding our diversity and inclusion efforts.

The Future of the Foundation

We stand on the shoulders of this history as we continue and grow our work to advance biopharmaceutical science and delivery. On this backdrop, we look forward to supporting the next generation of biopharmaceutical researchers to explore new technological frontiers – such as mRNA therapeutics, cell and gene therapies, and fields we haven't even imagined yet. We also have a critical opportunity to help shape a patient-centered, value-driven health care system through advanced, validated methodologies to assessing value of medicines. We will continue doing the work of the PhRMA Foundation – but, I hope, less quietly than in the past.

Amy M. Miller, PhD
President
PhRMA Foundation

Fiona H. Marshall Joins Foundation Board

Fiona H. Marshall, PhD, FMedSci FRS, has joined the PhRMA Foundation Board of Directors.

Dr. Marshall is Senior Vice President of Discovery Sciences, Preclinical development and Translational Medicine at Merck. Previously, she served as Founder and Chief Scientific officer of Heptares (now Sosei-Heptares), a highly successful UK biotechnology company focused on structure-guided drug design of small molecules, peptides and antibody therapeutics to G protein-coupled receptors – during which she became well known for her seminal work in this field.

Dr. Marshall won the 2012 WISE Women of Outstanding Achievement for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the 2015 RSC Malcolm Campbell Award for chemistry. She is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, Honorary Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and in 2021 she was elected Fellow of the Royal Society. Dr. Marshall holds a BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Bath and PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Cambridge.

Fall Virtual Patient-Centered Outcomes Series Continues; Final Event is Dec. 10

The PhRMA Foundation kicked off its new virtual webinar series on patient-centered outcomes (PCO) with events on September 17 and November 12, featuring a line-up of experts who discussed a wide range of topics related to patient-centricity in value assessment.



Executive summaries and videos of the first two events are available by clicking the links below:

- [Webinar 1 Video \(60 minutes\)](#). History, current landscape, and gaps to advancing patient-centered outcomes and inclusive patient engagement in value assessment
- [Webinar 1 Executive Summary](#)
- [Webinar 2 Video \(90 minutes\)](#). Spotlight on current and emerging approaches and methods to enhance patient-centricity and inclusive patient engagement in value assessment

- The Executive Summary for Webinar 2 is forthcoming.

Space is still available for the third webinar in the series, to be held Friday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eastern Time. Registration is free.

The focus of the Dec. 10 webinar will be “Looking Forward: Opportunities Towards a Collaborative Research Agenda for Patient-Centered Evidence Generation and Broad Impact Beyond Current Models.”

Two panel discussions will identify opportunities to develop and implement a patient-centered outcomes/impacts and inclusive research agenda with broad impacts beyond any particular value-based model specification.

Panel 1 will discuss a key challenge in patient centered outcomes research – the lack of data available to measure PCOs, especially these not captured in clinical trials.

Panel 2 will discuss how value assessment research can capture and communicate differences in outcomes and preferences that impact diverse and underrepresented populations.

Panelists will include:

Charlene Son Rigby, Chief Executive Officer, RARE-X; **Eberechukwu Onukwugha, MS, PhD**, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore; **Lori Frank, PhD**, Senior Scientist, RAND Corporation, President, ISOQOL; **Stacey Kowal, MS**, Principal, Health Policy and Systems Research, Genentech; and **Edward Lee, PhD**, Head, US Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) Strategy, UCB.

Moderators will include **Bari Talente**, EVP, Advocacy and Healthcare Access, National Multiple Sclerosis Society; and **Jennifer Bright, MPA**, President, Innovation and Value Initiative (IVI).

For more detailed background and to register for the December 10 event, please visit our [registration page](#).

Call for Grant Applications Approaching for Applications for the Foundation’s Health Outcomes and Translational Medicine Awards

The deadline for funding in the Foundation’s [Health Outcomes](#) and [Translational Medicine](#) categories is **February 1, 2022**. Awards for Health Outcomes Research include predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, as well as research starter grants. Awards for Translational Medicine include postdoctoral fellowships and research starter grants.

Health Outcomes Research

Predocctoral fellowships provide \$25,000 per year in stipend support to promising students during advanced stages of training and thesis research and for the career development of scientists prepared to engage in health outcomes research. Funding may be requested for 12, 18 or 24 months.

Postdoctoral fellowships are two-year awards that provide \$60,000 per year in stipend support for individuals engaged in a research training program that will extend their credentials in health outcomes research and will strengthen representation of health outcomes research in schools of pharmacy, medicine, nursing and public health.

Research starter grants offer financial support to individuals beginning independent research careers in health outcomes research at the faculty level. They provide \$100,000 for one year.

Translational Medicine

Postdoctoral fellowships support individuals engaged in multidisciplinary/collaborative

research training programs that will extend their credentials in Translational Medicine. The fellowships are for two years and provide \$60,000 in stipend support per year. The second year of funding is based upon the PhRMA Foundation receiving a satisfactory progress report from the applicant upon completion of the first ten months of funding.

Research starter grants offer financial support to individuals beginning independent research careers in translational medicine at the faculty level. They provide \$100,000 for one year.

To learn more about these awards, visit www.phrmafoundation.org/awards. The application portal will open December 20, 2021.

Value Assessment

Foundation-Funded Value Assessment Leaders' Papers Published

Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy

The winning entries in the first [Health Equity Challenge Award](#) have been published in a special supplement of the *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy*. You can read all of the papers by [clicking here](#).

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

- **Authors:** 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 and 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.*

- **Author:** 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.*

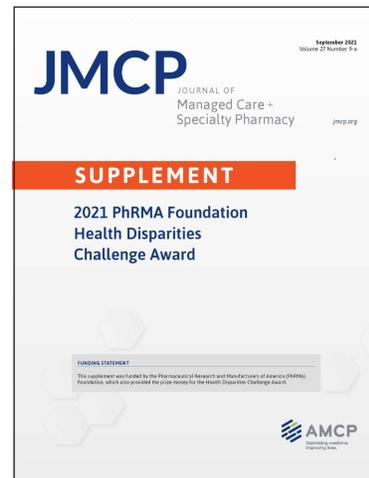
- **Authors:** Leticia R. Moczygemba, PharmD, PhD, TxCORE, University of Texas at Austin; Carolyn M. Brown, PhD, TxCORE, University of Texas at Austin; Michael Johnsrud, PhD, RPh, TxCORE, University of Texas at Austin.

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

- **Authors:** 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.

Value & Outcomes Spotlight

The winning papers from the [2020 Patient-Centered Outcomes Challenge Award](#) have been featured in the



September 2021 supplemental issue of *Value & Outcomes Spotlight*. The entire issue can be [downloaded by clicking here](#). You can view each paper individually below:

First Place: [Generalized Risk-Adjusted Cost-Effectiveness \(GRACE\): Ensuring Patient-Centered Outcomes in Healthcare Decision Making](#)

- **Authors:** Charles E. Phelps, PhD, University of Rochester; Darius N. Lakdawalla, PhD, University of Southern California School of Pharmacy and Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics.

Second Place: [Nudging Health Economists: A Process for Systematic Identification of Patient-Centered Outcomes for Inclusion in Value Assessment](#)

- **Authors:** T. Joseph Mattingly II, PharmD, MBA, PhD, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy; Julia F. Slejko, PhD, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy; Elisabeth M. Oehrlein, PhD; MS, National Health Council; Eleanor M. Perfetto, PhD, MS, National Health Council, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Third Place (tie): [Evolution of Precision Medicine: Applying a Population-Based Evidence Assessment Repository to Achieve Patient.](#)

- **Authors:** Jonathan H. Watanabe, PharmD, PhD, University of California Irvine School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Derjung M. Tarn, MD, PhD, University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine; Jan D. Hirsch, PhD, University of California Irvine School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Third Place (tie): [Coproduct in Learning Healthcare Systems Is the Key to Unlocking True Healthcare Value.](#)

- **Author:** Brandy Fureman, PhD, Epilepsy Foundation, Epilepsy Learning Healthcare System.

Foundation Commentaries Highlight the Work of Foundation's Centers of Excellence

Two recently published commentaries have highlighted the work of the Foundation's [Centers of Excellence in Value Assessment](#).

Writing in the September issue of the *American Journal of Accountable Care*, Joey Mattingly, PhD, of the [Patient-Driven Values in Healthcare Evaluation \(PAVE\)](#) Center at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy discussed the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute's recently updated mandate and what it means for the field of value assessment research, including discussion of his own work developing a novel economic model to assess the value of Hepatitis C therapies that incorporated patient-informed value elements. You can [read the article here](#).

A column in *MedCity News* highlighted the work of another of the Foundation's Centers, the [Research Consortium for Health Care Value Assessment](#). Authored by Allison Oakes, PhD, a Senior Researcher on the Enterprise Health Services Research Team at Anthem, the column highlights the Consortium's work to identify, measure and develop strategies to reduce the prevalence of low-value care across the U.S. health care system. You can [read the article here](#).



PhRMA Foundation 2020 Annual Report Published

The PhRMA Foundation has released its 2020 annual report, highlighting a year of activity that included \$3.7



million in funding distributions across 15 programs and awards. The report includes summaries of the ongoing work of the Foundation's grant recipients, awardees, and supported research institutions.

An electronic copy of the Foundation's 2020 annual report is available by [clicking here](#).

Awardee Spotlight



Eberechukwu Onukwugha: Helping Us Better Understand Decision-Making and Disparities in Health Care



Eberechukwu Onukwugha, MS, PhD, who received a PhRMA Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Outcomes Research, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and is the Executive Director of the Pharmaceutical Research Computing Center at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Onukwugha is a national leader in health economics and outcomes research, and is gaining attention for her efforts to address disparities in health care – an issue that is a priority for the PhRMA Foundation.

We recently held a virtual sit-down with Dr. Onukwugha to talk about her work and interests. Read the interview by clicking "Read More" below.

[Read More](#)

[Visit our website for more information](#)

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

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