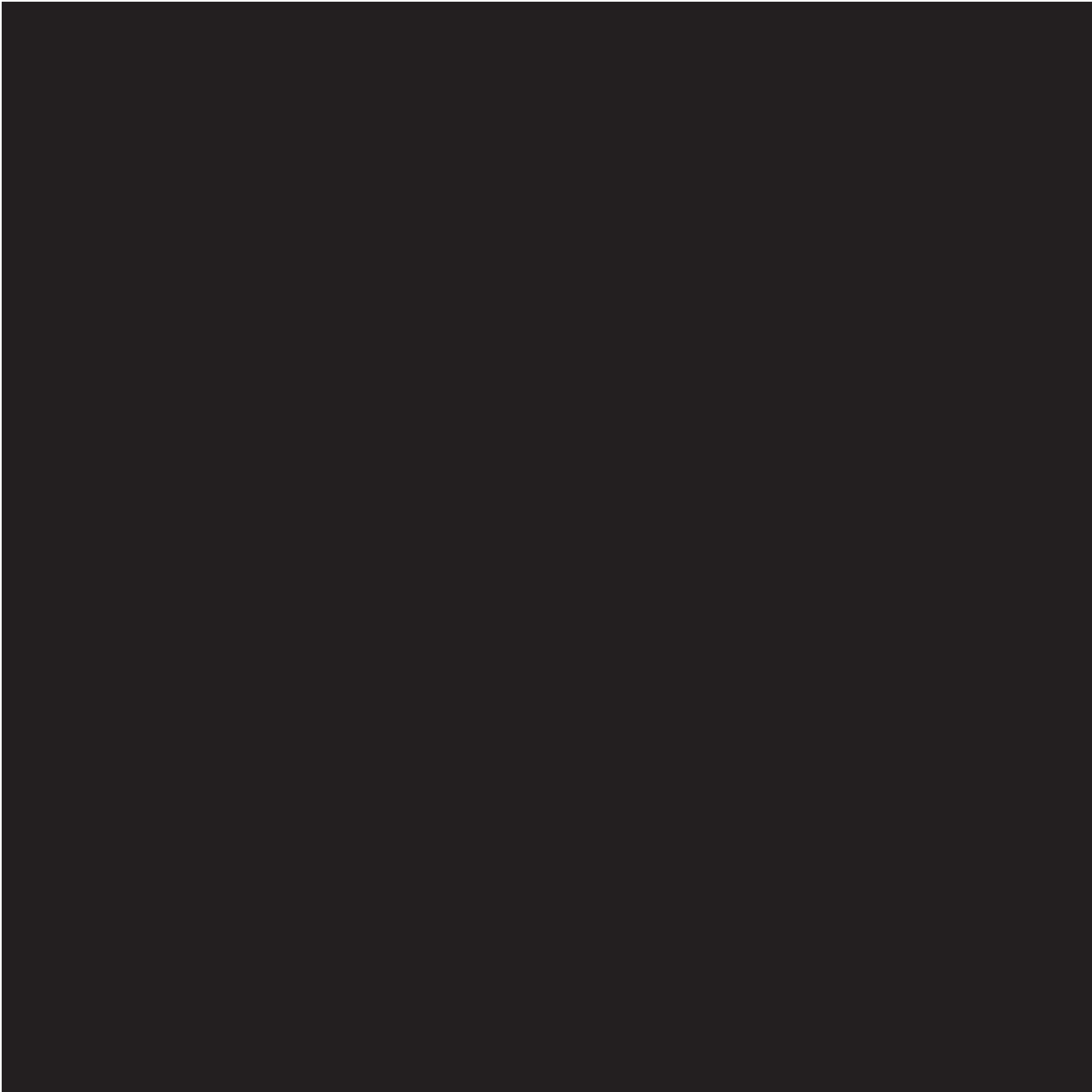


2006







46

Picture this

■ The United States had emerged victorious from World War II, and the baby boom had begun. In London, the United Nations convened the inaugural meeting of its General Assembly. At the University of Pennsylvania, engineers unveiled the first electronic computer. And in Oklahoma, 30 state leaders signed the charter of a new, nonprofit institute. The name of this organization, proclaimed the document, “shall be the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.” ■ In September, OMRF celebrated the 60th anniversary of this hope-filled moment. As celebrations tend to be, this one was festive, marked by dancing, toasts, speeches (short ones) and, of course, cake. More than 600 people gathered to salute six decades worth of OMRF’s achievements, which have included major breakthroughs in Alzheimer’s, AIDS, a test to predict breast cancer and a pair of life-saving drugs. ■ But the party, which was hosted by Oklahoma First Lady Kim Henry, was no valediction. “OMRF’s future shines even brighter than its past,” Dr. Stephen Prescott, OMRF’s new president, told the crowd. ■ On the pages that follow, you’ll see some of OMRF’s high points from 2006. These are but a few images from a busy and successful year. Still, they should offer a vibrant picture of how far OMRF has come since 1946—and a glimpse of the possibilities that tomorrow holds.

REMINA





Turning back the clock on cell division

■ For as long as scientists have known about cell division, they've thought the process was irreversible. Until now. ■ In 2006, a team of OMRF researchers led by Dr. Gary Gorbsky found a way to turn back the process of cell division. The discovery, which Gorbsky detailed in *Nature*, one of the world's leading scientific journals, could have important implications for treating cancer and birth defects. ■ Cell division occurs millions of times each day in the human body and is essential to life itself. But when that process goes awry, it can cause cancer—the uncontrolled growth of cells with too many or too few chromosomes. ■ In the lab, Gorbsky's team was able to interrupt and reverse the division process, sending duplicate chromosomes back to the center of the original cell. The findings could lead to advances in preventing the development and spread of certain cancers. They also could yield new methods for detecting and correcting genetic flaws that lead to birth defects and gestational illnesses. ■ With coverage by the BBC in the United Kingdom, Russian-language *Newsweek*, and newspapers in Brazil, France and Scotland, the discovery garnered international attention. "Dr. Gorbsky's results provide elegant proof that the cell cycle must be precisely controlled," says Dr. Rodger McEver, OMRF's vice president of research. "Now he can work toward developing innovative methods to probe the complex process of cell division."

The word "big" is written in a large, bold, orange font with a textured, slightly grainy appearance. A small, stylized fishing lure icon is positioned on the vertical stem of the letter 'i'. The lure is red and black, with a hook and a tail. A black line with an arrowhead points from the right edge of the page towards the lure icon. The background is white, and on the right side, there is a partial view of a green circular shape and a blue shape, suggesting a landscape or water.

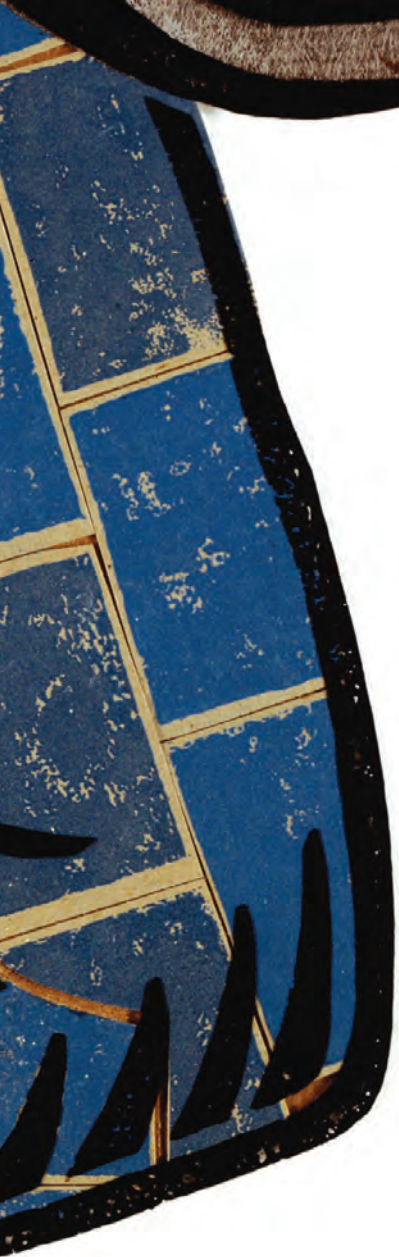
Angling for a cure

■ In a perfect world, Danny Wohl is pretty certain who would have won the 2006 installment of the annual Frank Wohl Memorial Bass Tournament. ■ “My dad would have said, ‘Good tournament, guys,’ but he would have won it,” says Wohl, smiling. ■ But Wohl’s father, Frank, a Clinton businessman and fisherman, died from cancer complications in 1985 at age 61. The Memorial Bass Tournament, which began the following year at Foss Lake in western Oklahoma, carries on Wohl’s legacy—both as a fisherman and as someone who battled cancer. ■ In September, 72 fishermen participated in the 21st annual event to support cancer research at OMRF. Since the tournament’s inception, it has raised \$38,000 for OMRF. The event is just one of many community-based fund-raisers that support research at OMRF each year. ■ “Our sponsors and fishermen anted up for OMRF, because they all know what a worthy cause it is,” says Lance Brooks, the tournament’s organizer. “Cancer touches everybody’s life in some way or another. It’s satisfying to know that we’re able to continue a tradition that has meant so much to many families.”





*economic
muscle*



OMRF adds jobs, dollars to state

■ Innovation. Growth. Lifesaving discoveries. These are the hallmarks of OMRF. Yet the foundation is more than one of the nation's premiere biomedical research institutes—it is a powerful economic engine in the state of Oklahoma. ■ A report released in March concluded that OMRF has an annual impact of \$46 million on the state's economy. The new study, authored by a pair of the state's leading economists, also concludes that OMRF is responsible for an estimated 1,061 jobs in Oklahoma—543 directly employed by OMRF and 518 others created as a result of the out-of-state grant revenues its researchers bring to Oklahoma. ■ “Economies of the future will increasingly rely on knowledge industries and technology-based economic development,” says report co-author Dr. Robert Dauffenbach of the University of Oklahoma. “Research and development activities like those at OMRF are at the very heart of this type of development.” Indeed, even if OMRF did not add another employee, it would still have an impact of \$460 million on the state's economy in the next decade.

■ The work of OMRF scientists already has yielded more than 500 domestic and international patents and given birth to 11 biotech start-up companies. And with OMRF set to embark on a major expansion, its role on the state's economy will continue to grow. ■ Adding new research talent will, of course, help OMRF achieve its core mission of finding treatments and cures for deadly diseases. But the expansion also will pay major economic dividends to the state in the form of well-compensated, intellectually rewarding jobs. With an average full-time annual salary of \$47,676, jobs at OMRF pay 50 percent more than Oklahoma's median wage of \$31,856. ■ *For the full report, go to OMRF.org/impactreport.*

risers AND hires





Stem cells not asleep after all

■ Bone marrow stem cells spend most of their existence in a slumber-like state. Oblivious to the daily battles fought by the body's immune system, they sleep until a pre-set "alarm" sounds, signaling that it's time for them to become blood cells that fight infection. ■ Or maybe it's not that simple. ■ In a head-turning discovery, Dr. Paul Kincade and his colleagues at OMRF have found that marrow stem cells possess receptors that recognize bacteria and viruses. When activated, these receptors kick the stem cells and immature blood cells into action, enlisting them to help fight whatever pathogen is attacking the body at that moment. ■ The OMRF researchers' findings, published in the July 2006 issue of the journal *Immunity*, could have important implications for treating childhood leukemias and other forms of cancer, as well as autoimmune diseases such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. ■ "When stem cells receive these distress signals, they create cells the body most needs early in life-threatening situations," says Kincade. This messaging system normally serves to replace cells that are damaged or killed while keeping us healthy. But it also may be detrimental. For example, in leukemia patients vulnerable to infections after receiving bone marrow or cord blood transplants, or in autoimmune diseases like lupus, where immunosuppressive treatments often leave the body subject to long-term infection. ■ With this new discovery, says Kincade, "It may be possible to boost immunity when necessary and also shut down inappropriate responses. And that could provide a powerful tool to fight cancer, lupus and many other diseases."

four stars

Charity Navigator gives OMRF top marks again

■ For the fifth straight year, the nation's largest charity evaluator has awarded OMRF its highest possible rating. ■ Created in 2001, Charity Navigator promotes intelligent giving by providing financial report cards for more than 4,000 national and international charities. With this most recent analysis, the nonprofit rating agency has awarded OMRF four stars in each of its five evaluation cycles, a distinction enjoyed by only three other charities in the state of Oklahoma. ■ "This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public that it is worthy of their trust," says Trent Stamp, executive director of Charity Navigator. According to Stamp, just 12 percent of the nonprofits evaluated by Charity Navigator have received even two consecutive four-star ratings. ■ OMRF was one of 100 medical research organizations nationwide evaluated this year by Charity Navigator. Only one-third received a four-star rating, and OMRF was the sole medical research organization in Oklahoma to earn this score. ■ "We know that donors have a dizzying number of giving choices," says OMRF President Stephen Prescott. "Tools like Charity Navigator are a great way of promoting intelligent giving. The more information donors have, the better decisions they can make." ■ *To view OMRF's full report card, go to charitynavigator.org.*

ans



sowing



THE SEEDS
OF CHARITY



One man's frugal life yields a generous gift

Over the course of three decades, Cecil Brown mailed dozens of letters to OMRF. Tucked inside the envelopes were donations—perhaps \$10 for heart disease research or, on occasion, a \$100 check to help scientists find treatments for cancer. Although he was generous with friends, family and charity, the longtime resident of Custer City was no one's idea of a spendthrift. He spent little on himself, and drove older model cars. As a young man, he even was known to eat nothing but beans for weeks on end. Brown's thrifty ways helped him amass a comfortable nest egg, and when he died at age 95, he surprised OMRF with his largest gift: \$200,000 from his estate. "He always talked about how OMRF was doing some remarkable things for health," says Vicki Falconer, Brown's attorney, who presented the gift to OMRF in the spring of 2006. "He was very high on the research the scientists were doing." After serving in World War II, Brown worked in the insurance business. Married twice, he lost his first wife to a rare brain disease, his second to Alzheimer's. According to Brown's niece Ruth Jacobs, those losses cemented her uncle's decision to make his final gift to OMRF. "He didn't spend his money foolishly," Jacobs says. "He saved it for the things that mattered most to him."



what does

THE FU



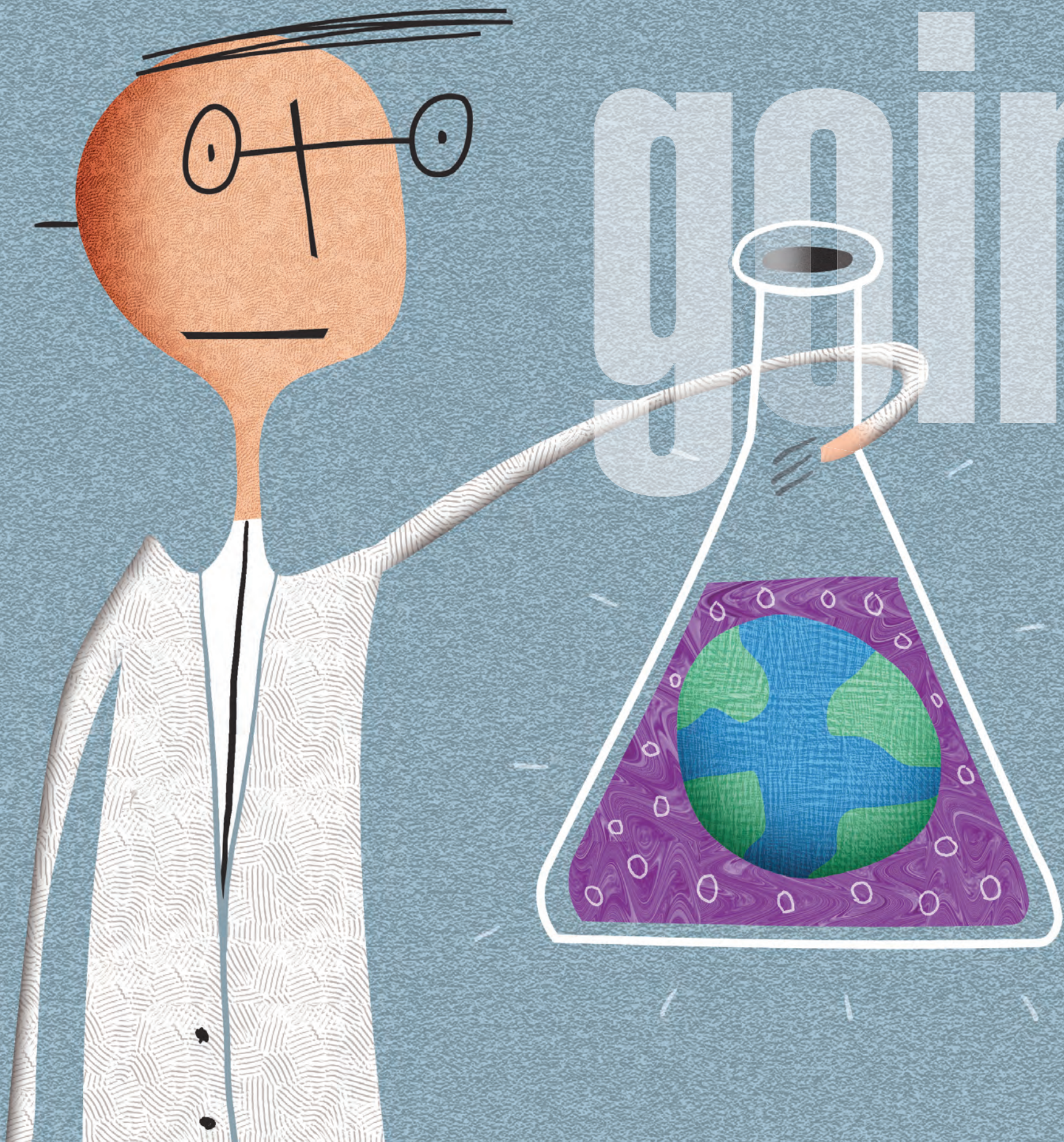
TURE



WOMEN?

New test predicts breast cancer risk

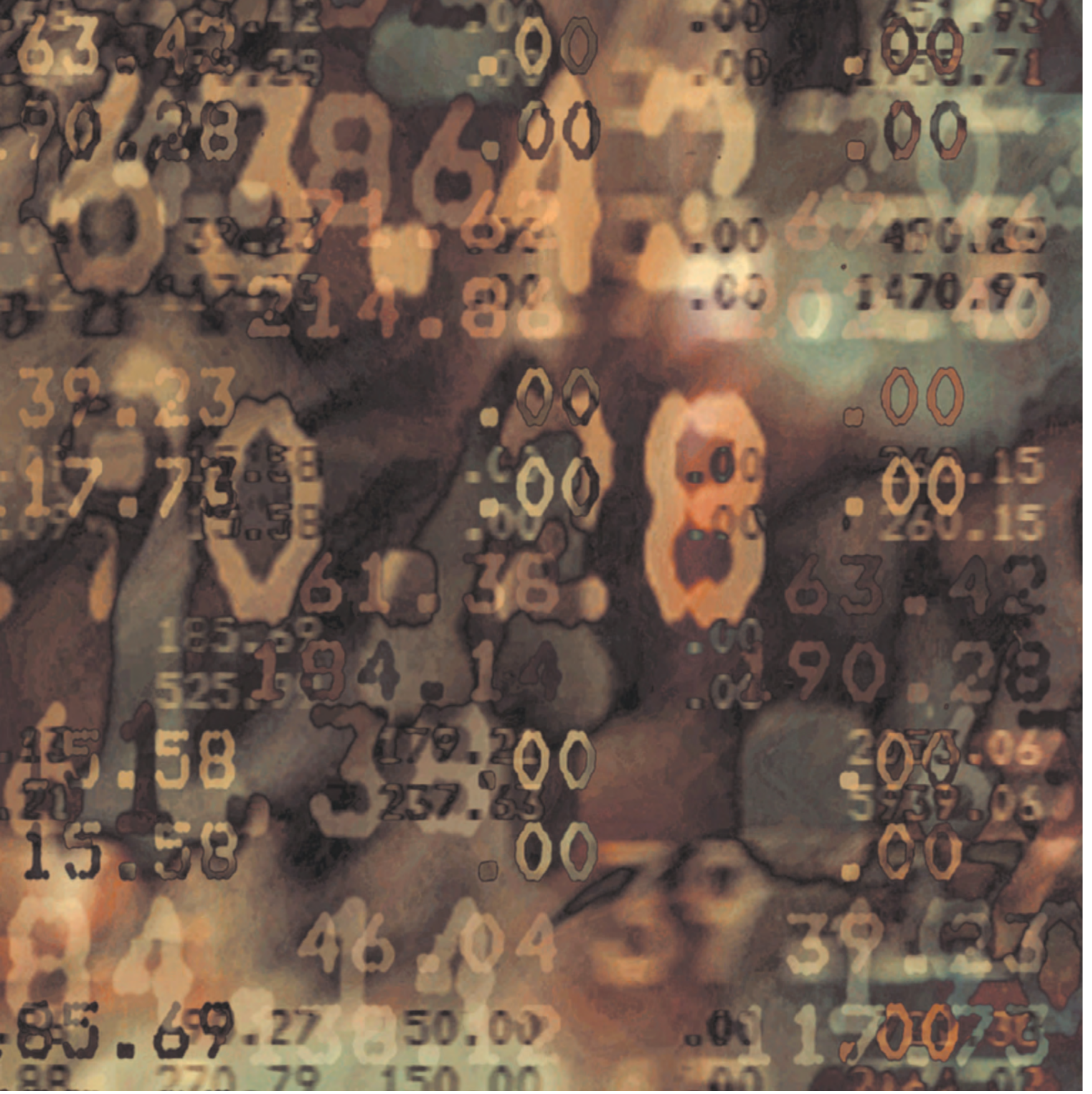
■ This year, more than 200,000 American women will receive a sobering diagnosis. “You have breast cancer,” their physicians will tell them. ■ But thanks to discoveries made at OMRF, a new risk assessment test offers hope in the battle against this disease, which strikes 1 in 8 women and claims 40,000 lives in the U.S. each year. ■ This past September, the test—known as OncoVue—became available in selected clinics in Oklahoma and around the country. InterGenetics, an Oklahoma-based biotech company, developed the test based on discoveries made at OMRF by Drs. Eldon Jupe and Linda Thompson. The product of 13 years of research and tests involving 8,000 women, OncoVue is the first genetic-based cancer risk test relevant to all women. ■ The test is simple for women to take: Swish some mouthwash, then spit it into a tube. But the results are invaluable, predicting a woman’s risk of developing breast cancer over her lifetime. With this information, women who learn they are at higher risk can explore options (like more frequent mammography, ultrasound and MRI) that will improve the odds of early diagnosis and successful intervention. ■ “The test gives a woman knowledge,” says Thompson. “And with this knowledge, she can take control of her health.”



g global

For OMRF, the research world is flat

■ The name says Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. But don't be fooled. Because when it comes to scientific partnerships, OMRF's work touches nearly every corner of the globe. ■ In 2006, OMRF researchers published papers or joined on grants with scientists in 24 U.S. states, 20 countries and on 6 continents (sorry, Antarctica). The collaborators come from America's leading universities—Harvard, Yale and Stanford. They also hail from Konkuk University in South Korea, the Rosebank Clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Italy's Istituto di Genetica delle Popolazioni. And the research topics range as far and wide as the collaborators, from studies of rare children's diseases to Alzheimer's. ■ As OMRF's reach has broadened, so has its reputation for excellence. Indeed, its emergence as one of the nation's leading independent medical research institutes helped OMRF recruit a new president in 2006. ■ Dr. Stephen Prescott took the helm of OMRF in May, becoming the foundation's ninth president. An internationally recognized leader in the studies of the basic mechanisms of human disease, Prescott joined OMRF from the University of Utah, where he served as executive director of the Huntsman Cancer Institute. ■ "The people of Oklahoma have built a gem of an institution," says Prescott. "Thanks to six decades of generosity, OMRF is now home to a group of scientists who are both immensely talented and respected worldwide." He pauses a moment. "Our labs may be located physically on Northeast 13th Street, but the discoveries here make a difference in lives the world around."



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For a complete list of 2006 scientific publications, go to OMRF.org/2006pubs.

SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Operating Fund July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

OPERATING REVENUE

Competitive research grants	
National Institutes of Health grants	\$ 25,468,540
Other competitive research grants	7,732,579
Total grants	<u>33,201,119</u>
Private contributions	
Income and gifts from trusts	5,740,891
Gifts and bequests	2,025,444
Contributions	1,142,675
Memorials	628,947
Total private contributions	<u>9,537,957</u>
Other revenue	
Interest and investment income	3,308,723
Mineral income	1,174,728
Royalties and licensing income	2,177,787
Rent, analytical lab and miscellaneous	925,491
Total other revenue	<u>7,586,729</u>
Total revenue	50,325,805
Operating revenue from wills, pledges and other restricted gifts recorded in prior years	<u>2,275,927</u>
Total operating revenue	<u>52,601,732</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services - Research	43,404,959
Support Services - General and administrative	3,629,646
Total operating expenses	<u>47,034,605</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 5,567,127

The \$5,567,127 in excess of revenues over expenses was used for plant and equipment purchases.

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