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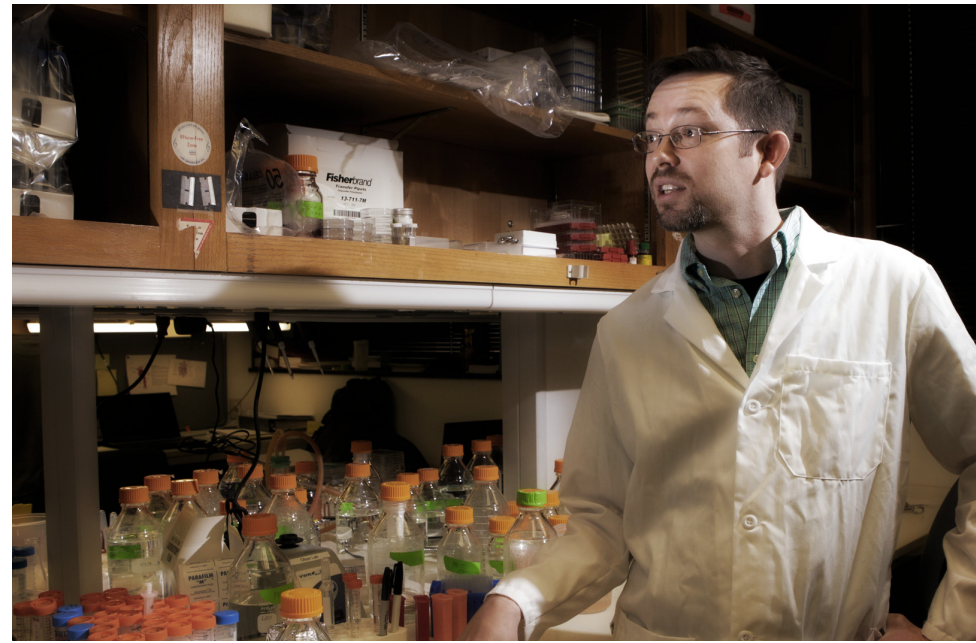
PROGRESS comes in many forms, some obvious, others more hushed. But there was nothing subtle about the giant step forward OMRF took in 2011. On April 21, at a ceremony led by Gov. Mary Fallin, we dedicated our new research tower.

The addition of 186,000 square feet of laboratory and clinical space represented the largest campus expansion in our history. The building contains 20 new laboratories, a state-of-the-art imaging facility, one of the nation's largest -80° (Celsius) freezer facilities, the Samuel Roberts Noble Cardiovascular Institute, the OMRF Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence, and two shelled floors to allow for future expansion. There are plenty of gee-whiz phrases we could roll out to describe the tower, but we think a single word sums it up best. Possibilities.

So now the real work begins. On the pages that follow, you'll meet some of the scientists who have joined OMRF since we began the largest expansion in our history. You'll also learn about the exciting, new paths they're already blazing.

No one knows what tomorrow will bring—for OMRF, for medical research, for human health. With your help, we're giving our scientists every resource we can muster to confront the challenges of human disease. The obstacles they face will be legion. But the opportunities for life-changing discoveries are endless.





OBESITY RESEARCH
LORIN OLSON, PH.D.

When Dr. Lorin Olson added a gene to young laboratory mice, he expected the animals to develop cancer. They didn't. Instead, Olson found that the gene—known technically as PDGFRbeta—blocked certain types of fat production. “The juvenile mice still had brown fat, which is used to burn energy, but they didn't have any of the white, jiggly fat that usually begins to appear right after birth,” says Olson, who published the new findings in the scientific journal *Developmental Cell*.

“It's always exciting when you find something unexpected like this,” he

says. The next phase of the research will be finding out what happens to the cells that might otherwise have become fat. He'll also look at what happens when the gene is added to adult mice.

Could the discovery one day lead to a weight-loss therapeutic? “If we can map the process that eventually ends in fat growth, we might be able to come up with a way to safely disrupt that chain of events,” says Olson, who came to OMRF from the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York in 2010. “This finding is a good start on unlocking those secrets.”





BREAST CANCER HONG CHEN, PH.D.

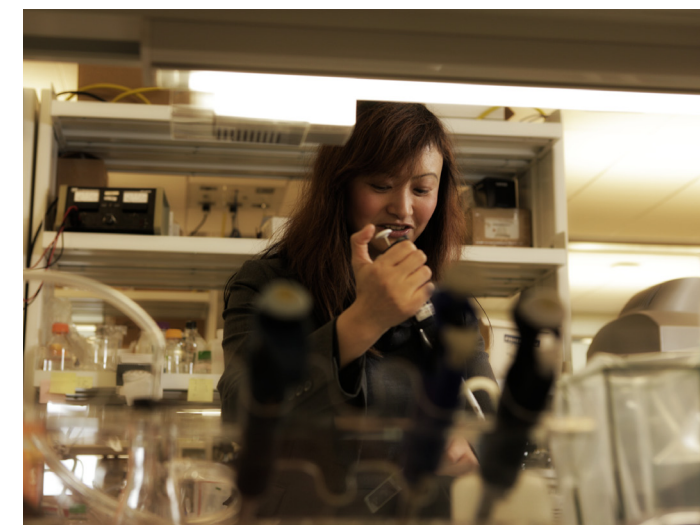
This year, breast cancer will claim 500,000 lives. During that same time, doctors will diagnose another 1.6 million new cases of the disease.

Researchers around the globe are searching for new ways to control this disease, which kills more women than any other form of cancer. At OMRF, Dr. Hong Chen believes she may have found an important clue.

Chen, who joined OMRF from Yale University in 2008, focuses her research on epsins, a family of proteins that influence the growth of blood vessels. When these growth factors go awry, vessels can grow out of control—as they do in breast cancer.

Her work has piqued the interest of the National Institutes of Health, which has awarded her a five-year grant to expand her research. Chen is now studying ways to use epsin to control the growth of blood vessels. “We want to learn how to stabilize or decrease vessel growth in the body,” she says.

Ultimately, she hopes to find a way to use epsins to act as a “roadblock” to the blood cells that cause breast cancer cells to grow and multiply. “The idea would be to keep the blood from reaching the cancer,” she says. Without blood, the cancer would starve and die. And that could mean a world of difference for women everywhere.



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

STEPHEN PRESCOTT, M.D.

PRESIDENT



A 4-star rating from Charity Navigator is a pretty big deal. And for the 10th consecutive year, OMRF received the highest score possible from America's leading independent charity evaluator.

"We know there are a lot of competitors for donor dollars, especially in this financial climate," says OMRF President Stephen Prescott. "Charity Navigator's rating is one more guarantee that when people donate to OMRF, their gifts are going directly to fight human disease."

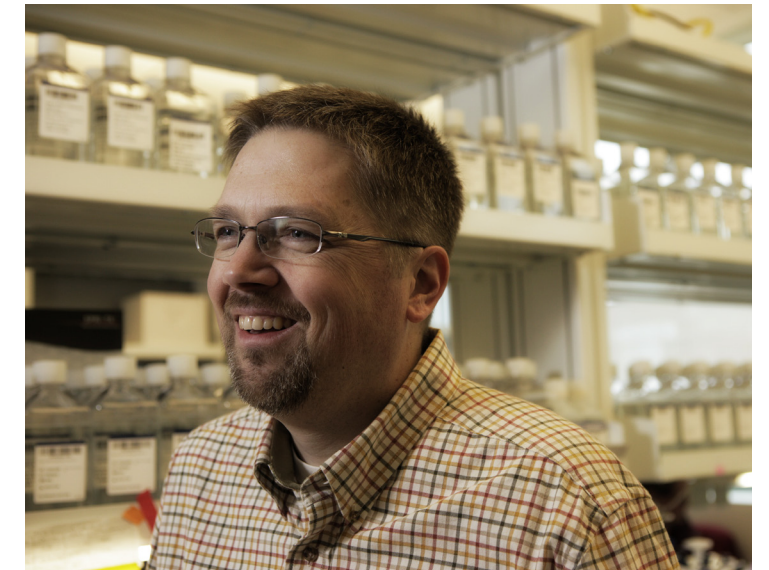
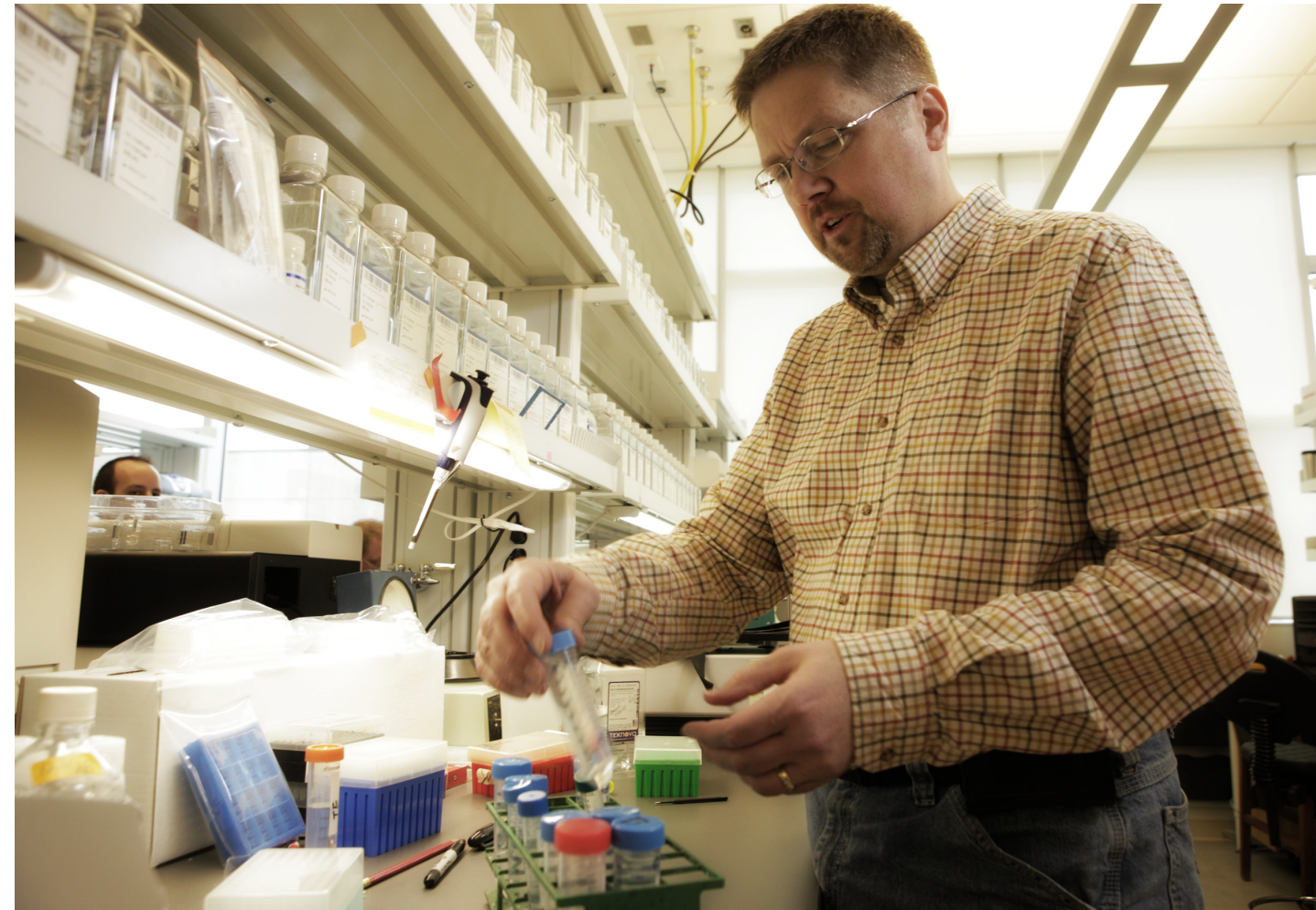
Charity Navigator promotes intelligent giving by providing report cards for more than 5,000 U.S. and international charities. The organization measures charities on

financial health and accountability and transparency to predict how efficiently a charity will utilize donor funds. It then assigns each charity a score from zero to four stars. OMRF was one of only six organizations in Oklahoma to earn a 4-star rating.

"Less than 1% of the charities we rate have received at least 10 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation outperforms most other charities in America," says Ken Berger, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. "This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."



LUPUS GENETICS
PATRICK GAFFNEY, M.D.



It's rare when researchers identify an individual gene tied to a disease. It's rarer still when they find the specific mutation responsible for that genetic defect.

But in 2011, OMRF's Dr. Patrick Gaffney did just that. He first discovered that a variation of a specific gene, TNFAIP3, was linked to the development of lupus, a devastating disease in which the immune system turns against the

body. Still, finding the gene was just the beginning. "We then had to identify which of the 120,000 DNA base pairs could be behind the problem," says Gaffney.

Human DNA is made up of four different base pairs, the order of which determines everything about how we look and act. With 3 billion bases in the human DNA, narrowing the search to 120,000 is a major achievement. Yet that finding led

to a new question: Which of those 120,000 bases is responsible for the genetic variation?

Gaffney's research team answered by testing more than 15,000 blood samples from lupus patients around the world over a two-year period. "We cross-referenced different populations to get closer to the right proteins and then used more sophisticated analysis to eliminate more options," he says. "Basically, we

kept filling in the blanks until we eliminated every other possibility."

Armed with this new finding, Gaffney will continue studying the gene to find out how a small change in the DNA sequence influences the creation and function of the TNFAIP3 protein. "You never know which discovery is going to give you the best chance to develop new therapeutics or better diagnostics," he says.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
GABRIEL PARDO, M.D.
FARHAT HUSAIN, M.D.



Laboratory breakthroughs are important, but the truly transformative discoveries are the ones that touch patients' lives.

With the opening of our Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence in 2011, OMRF built a bridge that will help deliver cutting-edge discoveries to more than 2,000 Oklahomans with MS. The Center is home to the state's largest MS clinic, and its physician-scientists work with laboratory researchers in OMRF's Arthritis and Clinical Immunology Research Program to advance our understanding of a chronic disease that robs patients of

their balance, cognition and sight. Through clinical trials, OMRF's doctors also deliver the newest experimental therapeutics to the Oklahomans who need them most.

"This is history-making time in MS," says Dr. Gabriel Pardo, the Center's director. Along with Dr. Farhat Husain, who also specializes in treating patients suffering from the autoimmune disease, Pardo joined OMRF in 2011 to improve the lives of Oklahomans suffering from MS. "We're solving a lot of mysteries and developing better treatment strategies. What could be more exciting?"

65 YEARS OMRF

August 28, 2011. If you happened to be poking around 825 Northeast 13th Street on that day, you wouldn't have seen anything that looked out of the ordinary.

Yes, it was Sunday. And, yes, it was 104 degrees. But graduate students and postdoctoral fellows still filled the labs, overseeing the experiments that never stop. Technicians fed laboratory mice and made sure the animals had clean cages and ample supplies of water. Computer monitors glowed white as scientists tried to coax meaning from the seemingly random data that filled their screens.

Just like any other day, OMRF's researchers were searching for answers. Yet this was not just any day.

On the same date in 1946, a group of state leaders had convened at the state capitol to witness Oklahoma's Secretary of State grant the charter

of a new, nonprofit institute. That institute, proclaimed the freshly inked articles of incorporation, shall be known "as the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation."

Those articles, now slightly yellowed, still adorn a wall at OMRF. In the 65 years since they were signed, OMRF scientists have made breakthroughs in AIDS treatment. They've invented new drugs to treat rare blood disorders. And today, their work is paving the way for the first generation of effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

These are advances OMRF's founders never could have imagined—much as we cannot know the breakthroughs that will emerge from OMRF's labs tomorrow. Still, if the past is any touchstone, those discoveries will make a difference in the lives of Oklahomans and people everywhere.



2011 AT A GLANCE

January

Dr. Patrick Gaffney and Kathy Moser led a group of scientists from 33 institutions that identified a genetic variant associated with lupus and, potentially, heart disease and certain kinds of cancer. The research study, which appeared in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*, was the largest experiment ever in the field of lupus genetics.



February

In its annual ranking of the best places to work for postdoctoral fellows, *The Scientist* magazine ranked OMRF 6th among all U.S. institutions.

A team of scientists at OMRF and the University of Texas at Austin discovered that a protein known as Arid3A is vital to the development of blood-producing stem cells. The finding could help doctors identify the cells in healthy bone marrow necessary for transplants to treat patients suffering from leukemias and certain immune deficiencies.

March

OMRF opened its Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence, the state's first comprehensive research and care facility for MS. By year's end, the Center counted more than 2,000 patients.



The FDA approved Benlysta, a new drug that was tested at OMRF. Dr. Joan Merrill led trials for the treatment, the first approved for lupus since 1955.



April

OMRF dedicated its new research tower, which was subsequently nominated for *R&D Magazine's* laboratory of the year award. "The next generation of scientists will be working in this building," said Dr. Jordan Tang in a speech at the dedication. "Together, we will move medical science forward for the benefit of Oklahoma and mankind."

Led by Dr. Lijun Xia, OMRF scientists pinpointed a defective sugar at the root of ulcerative colitis. The discovery could lead to new therapies for chronic digestive disorders, which affect an estimated 1.4 million Americans.

May

Walter Scheffe, a World War II hero and retired Enid pharmacist, made a bequest of \$500,000 to fund cancer research at OMRF. Said Scheffe's stepdaughter: "He gave generously to OMRF because he knew that research was the only way for cancer treatment methods to improve."

June

The Scientist magazine once again ranked OMRF as one of its top 10 places to work—this time for scientists. OMRF was one of only three institutions nationwide to make the 2011 top 10 lists both for scientists and postdoctoral fellows.

OMRF welcomed its 56th class of Sir Alexander Fleming Scholars. The 14 Oklahoma high school and college students spent the summer working with senior scientists and completing individual research projects.



July

Dr. Gary Gorbsky made a key discovery in understanding how cancer develops. In a research study published in the journal *Current Biology*, Gorbsky identified a mechanism that could play a key role in causing chromosomal abnormalities.

Working with scientists at the University of California, San Francisco, and the Pediatric MS Network, Dr. Judith James found that some common viruses could change the risk of pediatric MS.

August

OMRF received a major grant from the National Institutes of Health to create the Oklahoma Sjögren's Syndrome Center of Research Translation. That center will focus on developing new ways to diagnose and treat Sjögren's, an autoimmune disease thought to affect as many as 4 million Americans.

Working with the University of Oklahoma, OMRF scientists found that many patients given the regular seasonal flu vaccine also made antibodies to fight the H1N1 "swine flu" strain of influenza. "The results were clear: even if a new strain of virus comes along, the regular vaccine may provide some protection," said Dr. Linda Thompson, co-leader of the study.



September

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued a patent to OMRF for a novel method of predicting and diagnosing autoimmune diseases. To date, the work of OMRF scientists has yielded more than 700 domestic and international patents.



The National Institute of General Medical Sciences awarded Dr. Scott Plafker a five-year grant to study an enzyme that might cause vision loss.

October

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute awarded OMRF a grant to study sepsis. Led by Dr. Florea Lupu, the four-year project will examine new treatment strategies for the blood infection, which claims more than 100,000 American lives each year.

Putnam City Schools presented OMRF with a gift of \$78,267. With this donation, the district has given a total of \$2,993,253 since beginning its fund drive for cancer research in 1975.

November

A new drug tested at OMRF showed promising results in treating MS patients. OMRF's Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence is one of the national phase III clinical trial sites for the medication, known as Lemtrada.



December

Working with the Hough Ear Institute, OMRF researchers explored the use of two chemical compounds (4-OHPBN nitron and n-acetyl-cystine) to stop damage to the inner ear caused by acute acoustic trauma like that experienced by soldiers in combat.

HONOR ROLL

2011 DONOR LIST

Between January 1 and December 31, 2011, more than 6,800 individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations made gifts and pledges to OMRF. Each one of those donations made a difference. In this Honor Roll, we have recognized gifts of \$500 and above. Your generosity makes life-saving discoveries possible.



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DISCOVERIES CAMPAIGN

In 2007, OMRF launched the most ambitious expansion in our history, the Discoveries Campaign. Our goal is simple: to position OMRF for the next generation of life-changing breakthroughs.

With the dedication of our new research tower, the first phase is complete. We now have the state-of-the-art laboratory and clinical facilities necessary to help unlock the secrets of heart disease, autoimmune diseases and Alzheimer's. Yet without scientists and clinicians to fill it, the tower is but a building.

In this annual report, you've read about some of the researchers we've brought to OMRF as we've grown. They've enjoyed great success, and their work has begun OMRF's exciting new chapter. But to complete that story, we need your help.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we raised the \$84 million needed to construct and furnish the building. To complete the Discoveries Campaign, we must raise an additional \$41 million to recruit 30 more world-class scientists. Achieving this goal will ensure that Oklahoma stays on the leading edge of biomedical research—and that OMRF scientists continue making discoveries that make a difference.

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\$1,301,012 - Gifts less than \$100,000

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



ADVANCED MAGNETIC RESONANCE

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SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION REVENUES AND EXPENSES		
	FY 2011	FY 2010
OPERATING REVENUE		
Competitive research grants		
National Institutes of Health grants	\$ 33,620,282	\$ 31,179,138
Other competitive research grants	<u>6,373,818</u>	<u>8,252,805</u>
Total grants	39,994,100	39,431,943
Private contributions		
Income and gifts from trusts	6,868,701	7,008,283
Gifts and bequests	1,218,893	1,133,001
Contributions	1,809,911	1,527,446
Memorials	<u>1,116,301</u>	<u>620,582</u>
Total private contributions	11,013,806	10,289,312
Other revenue		
Interest and investment income	2,463,103	2,251,182
Mineral income	1,152,108	859,380
Rent	574,124	620,620
Royalties and licensing income	660,511	563,209
Other	<u>846,379</u>	<u>977,019</u>
Total other revenue	5,696,225	5,271,410
Total revenue	56,704,131	54,992,665
Operating revenue from wills, pledges, and other restricted gifts recorded in prior years	15,016,959	4,150,252
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	71,721,090	59,142,917
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program services - Research	52,329,217	51,042,953
Support services - General and administrative	<u>5,260,627</u>	<u>3,550,272</u>
Total operating expenses	57,589,844	54,593,225
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 14,131,246	\$ 4,549,692

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