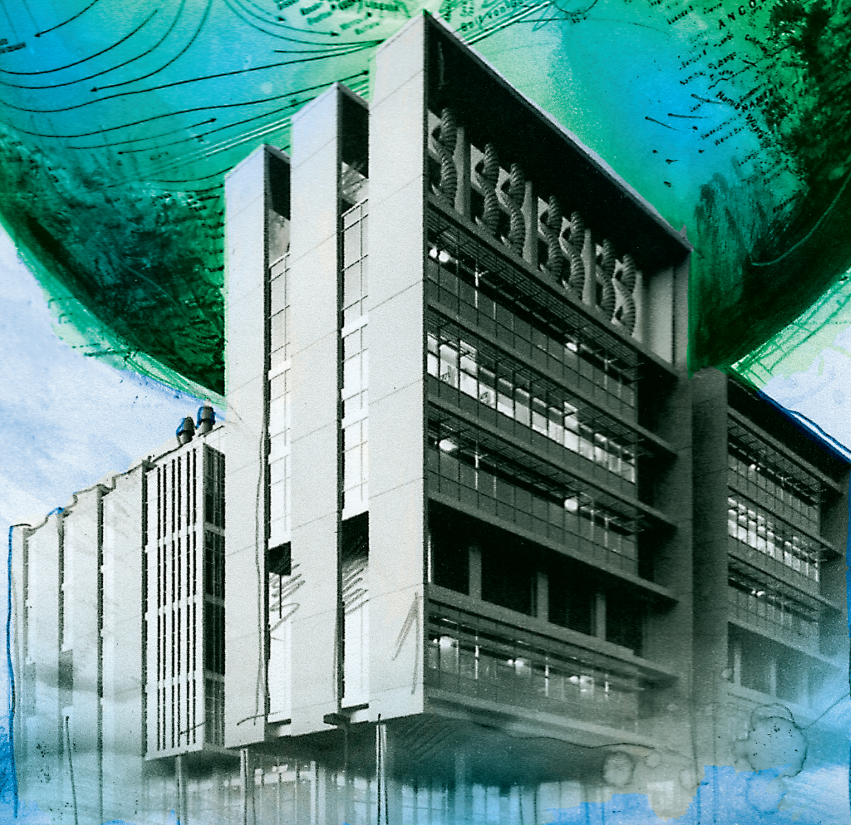


# GOING PLACES

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



REPUBLIC OF GUYANA  
TOURIST  
VISA

Visa No. 634/18  
Type of Visa: TOURIST  
Good for ONE Journey  
Duration of Stay: ONE MONTH from date of arrival  
Validity: THREE MONTHS from date of issue provided passport remains valid.  
Fees Received: .....  
Dated: MAY 13 2015  
Consul General  
EMBASSY OF GUYANA, NEW YORK

ROC  
IMMIGRATION  
SEP 07 2015  
387  
DEPARTED

REPUBLIC OF KUWAIT  
18 JUN 2015

مطار البحرين الدولي  
13 FEB 2015  
BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION  
ADMITTED  
NEW  
APR 09 2015  
Class  
101H

REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
VISA EXEMPTED - PRMPT  
ADMITTED  
JUN 25 2015  
DURATION OF STAY  
10 DAYS  
TAIPEI 057

BEN GURION  
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26 - 12  
VISIT PERMIT R/3/3  
DURATION 3 MONTHS

REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
BORDER CONTROL  
18 11 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION  
ADMITTED  
NEW  
APR 09 2015  
Class  
101H

# BOARDING PASS

**Thank you!**  
This year marks OMRF's 70th birthday. But as our generous donor, it's you who deserves a gift. So we hope you'll enjoy this special edition of our annual report. In these pages, you'll join our scientists and staff as they traveled the globe in 2015 in search of answers to medical research's most challenging questions. By forging collaborations with international partners, they're building scientific teams that, we hope, will find new and better ways to treat illnesses like heart disease and cancer. As you flip through the report, please open the envelopes you find. Although the letters inside may seem like they're addressed to someone else, they're really written to you. Because it's your support that makes all we do at OMRF possible.



REPUBLIC OF KUWAIT  
18 JUN 2015

UAE  
17 AUG 2015  
37407

पर्यटक वीजा  
Tourist Visa  
परमार्थ जयन्त  
Change of passport not allowed  
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Tourist visa 9457  
Date of issue 18/11/2015  
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REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
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INCHEON AIRPORT 197

CONSUL GENERAL  
NEW YORK

NEW YORK AIRPORT  
16 NOV 2015  
APR 17  
NEW YORK AIRPORT

VALID 30 DAYS STAY FROM  
DATE OF ARRIVAL

REPUBLIC OF GUYANA  
TOURIST  
**VISA**

Visa No. 634/18  
Type of Visa: TOURIST  
Good for ONE Journey  
Duration of Stay: ONE MONTH from date of arrival.  
Validity: THREE MONTHS from date of issue provided passport remains valid.  
Fees Received: .....  
Dated: **MAY 13 2015**

Consul General  
EMBASSY OF GUYANA, NEW YORK

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SEP 07 2015  
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REPUBLIC OF KUWAIT  
18 JUN 2015

مطار البحرين الدولي  
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BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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DURATION OF STAY  
30 DAYS  
TAIPEI 057

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VISIT PERMIT R/3/3  
DURATION 3 MONTHS

COMPTON  
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148

U.S. IMMIGRATION  
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DEC 23 2015

MINISTRY OF REPUBLIC OF GUYANA  
NEW YORK

23 OCT. 2015  
Tourist Office  
PRINSENTUM LIECHTENSTEIN

Dirección General Migración  
República Dominicana  
SEP 09 2015  
181.95 SALIDA

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BARCELONA  
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ADMITTED UNTIL: (CLASS)  
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AMSTERDAM SCHIPHOL  
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Canada  
DROUENES  
CUSTOMS  
965  
15 NOV 2015  
DORVAL  
693

Dirección General Migración  
República Dominicana  
AUG 12 2015  
69.67 ENTRADA

MALAYSIA IMMIGRATION  
JOHOR BHARU  
VISIT PASS  
Reg. 15, Jour. Pass. 83  
02 JUL 2015  
Permitted to enter and remain in West Malaysia and Sabah for ninety (90) days on social visit only from the date shown above.

STATE OF QATAR  
DOHA  
08 APR 2015

STATE OF QATAR  
DOHA  
30 MAR 2015

Immigration Canada  
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Abercorn  
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JOHOR BHARU  
MALAYSIA IMMIGRATION  
05 JUL 2015  
KELUAR

(0975) ANNUAL REPORT (0975)  
**OMRF-2015**  
OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
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REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
IMMIGRATION  
2015 DEC 08  
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INCHEON AIRPORT 19

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UAG  
17 AUG 2015  
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VALID 30 DAYS STAY FROM  
DATE OF ARRIVAL  
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REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
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2015 Nov 20  
UNTIL  
2015-12-08  
INCHEON AIRPORT 19

CONSULATE GENERAL OF KOREA  
NEW YORK

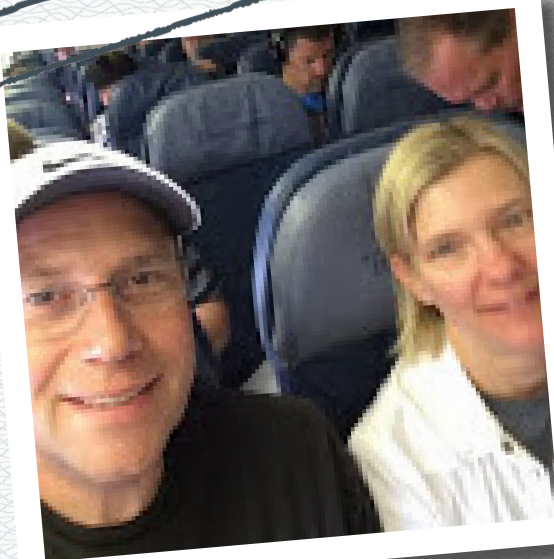
NEW YORK BLAIR T. SONDERS  
DOMESTIC  
18 NOV. 2015  
APR 17  
MIAMI A. ADRIANO NICOBAR



6

### President's Letter

Even in today's "flat" world, successful scientific collaborations can't just happen through screens and keyboards. Dr. Stephen Prescott offers an ode to the odyssey, research style.



10

### Half a World Away

Dr. David Jones woke to a new adventure every day when he visited China. While there, he received an award, toured cancer hospitals, visited historic sites and found himself the honored guest at countless dinners. The trip, he says, opened new avenues for research collaboration.



16

### Roman Conquest

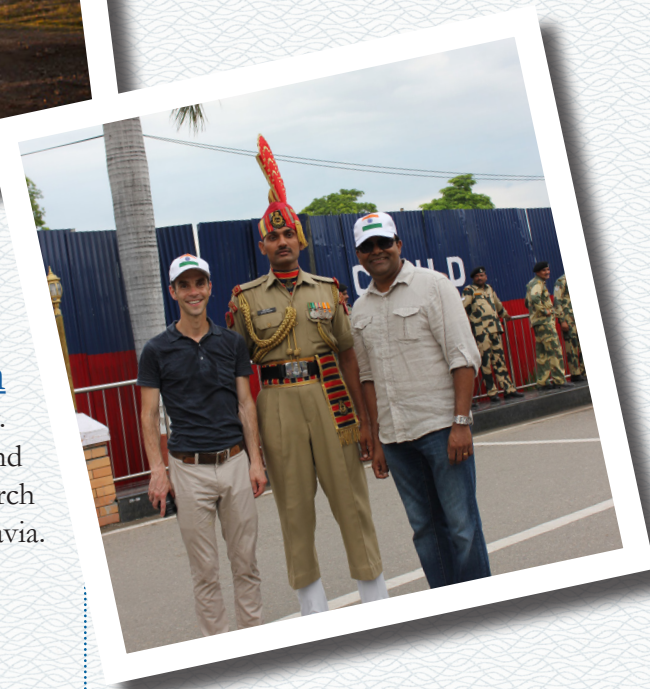
Sjögren's syndrome is a rare disease. Rarer still are those who devote their careers to trying to plumb the mysteries of Sjögren's. When the field's leading researchers gathered in Italy, it was the perfect chance for Dr. Kathy Sivils and a group of OMRF immunologists to share their knowledge and learn about the newest efforts to solve this puzzling condition.



20

### Land of the Midnight Sun

With 20 hours of sunlight each day, Dr. Florea Lupu had plenty of time to spend talking about joint cardiovascular research projects with his colleagues in Scandinavia.



24

### Passage to India

Ten days of wild car rides, discussions over tea, and visits to temples, research institutes and cultural havens highlighted Adam Cohen and Manu Nair's trip to India. Best of all, they left the country with a solid plan for bolstering the relationship between OMRF and the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology.

30

### Destinations

See where our scientists' travels took them in 2015

32

### Best of 2015

The year's milestones in a nutshell

34

### Selected Publications

36

### Financials

32

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The curtain closes on a watershed fundraising effort

38

### Honor Roll

Meet the givers whose generosity keeps OMRF going

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### Scientific Faculty

48

### Board of Directors

50

### National Advisory Council

Raising awareness of OMRF beyond Oklahoma's borders





**PAR AVION**

Dear Susan,

Do you remember that first scientific conference we ever attended? Yes, I'm talking about the one just outside of London with the too-small dorm rooms and the too-steamy English summer. Twin beds, no air conditioning, lots of stew with peas in it. Sort of like summer camp for adult nerds.

Okay, that description doesn't do the experience justice. Because it really was a sort of landmark. It was our first trip to Europe, I was fresh out of my research fellowship, and someone thought my work was important enough to fly me—a kid from central Texas—across the Atlantic just to talk about it. And you were sweet enough to accompany me.

OUR ELEGANT  
ACCOMMODATIONS IN  
A DORM AT



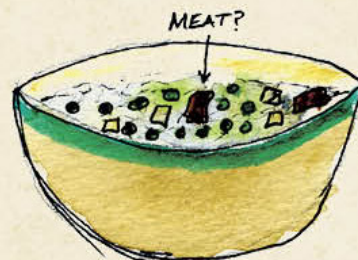
THE UNIVERSITY OF REDDING.  
WE HAD TWO TWIN BEDS!

I didn't know it then, but that first conference would set the mold for so many others that would follow. And, no, I'm not talking about those lumpy English schoolboy mattresses.

At that meeting, names became faces. The folks who'd written my textbooks were sitting in the classroom seats right next to me. They weren't just names anymore, they were living, breathing people taking notes and asking questions. At breakfast, dinner and lunch, we'd break bread together. Over fish and chips (or that horrible pea stew), we'd dissect the sessions we'd just attended. I'd seek their input, and they'd ask for mine.

When the meeting ended, though, those budding relationships didn't. Our interactions there laid the groundwork for collaborations that, as it turns out, would last a lifetime. And at another conference I met Tom McIntyre. Tom and I would go on not only to become fast friends but also research partners. Eventually, I coaxed Tom to join the faculty with me at the University of Utah. In the two decades that followed, our labs made a series of findings that helped deepen scientists' understanding of cancer and heart disease.

Tom is only one example of the many enduring collaborations that grew from my decision to leave the lab and to travel to meet my peers. Over the years, those journeys have taken us



STEW WITH GREEN  
PEAS

to destinations like Argentina, Ireland, Italy and Brazil. They've introduced me to countless thought leaders—and their ideas. They've sent post-doctoral fellows and brilliant young researchers to my labs. In short, they've provided the sparks that have lit countless intellectual fires. From those fires, the heat of new discoveries has risen.

When you leaf through this annual report, you'll see echoes of the many trips we've taken together in the words, photos and ephemera collected by OMRP's scientists and administrators as they traveled the world in 2015. Even in these days of text messages, email and videoconferencing, there's something magical about meeting someone in the flesh. About opening yourself to new experiences and concepts. About forging deep, meaningful human connections.

As my traveling companion, you've endured your fair share of red-eye flights and culinary adventures. I hope you'll agree they've been a small price to pay for finding new partners in the battle against human disease. All the same, thanks for being such a good sport.

Love,

*Steve*

*A pleasant surprise -  
this meant scones  
with clotted  
cream  
and jam!*

CREAM TEA  
TODAY  
3-5 PM

*Front yards  
of farm-  
houses*

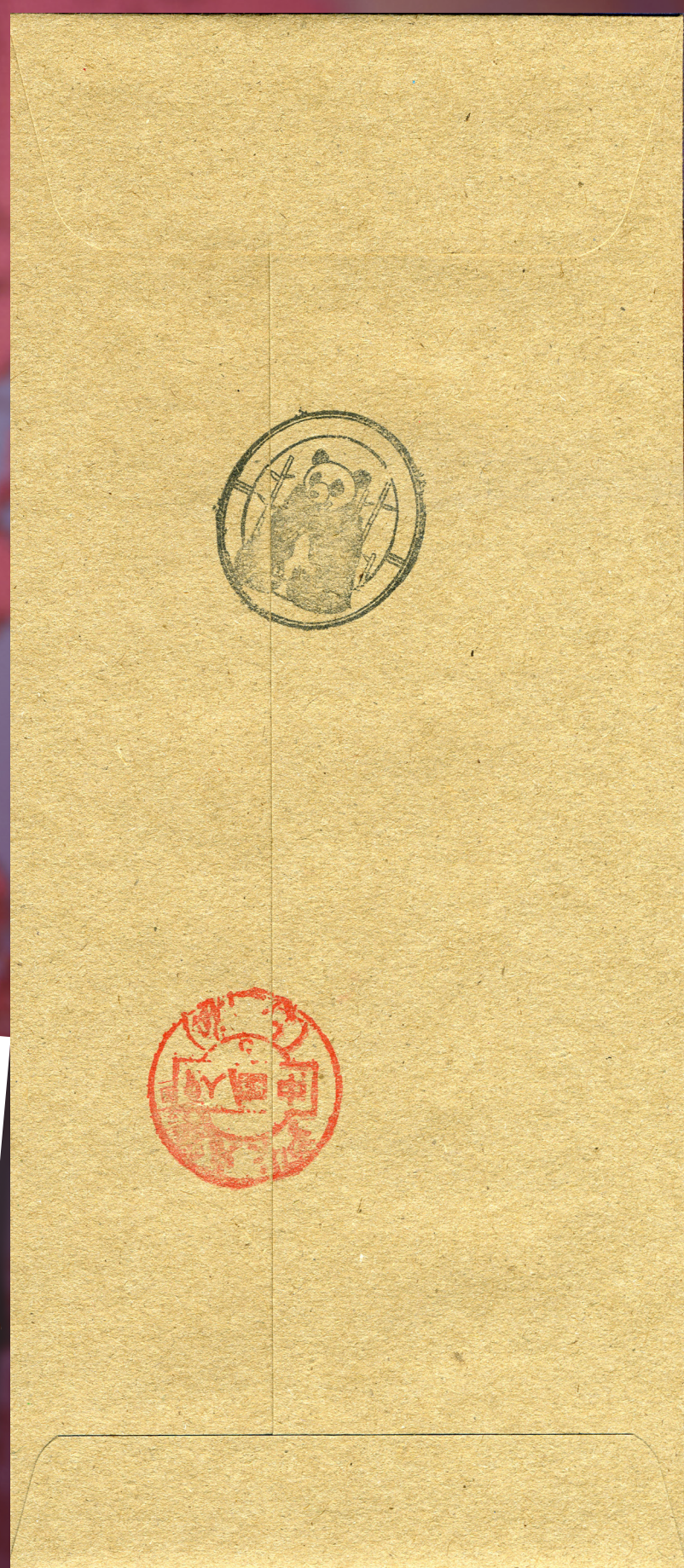
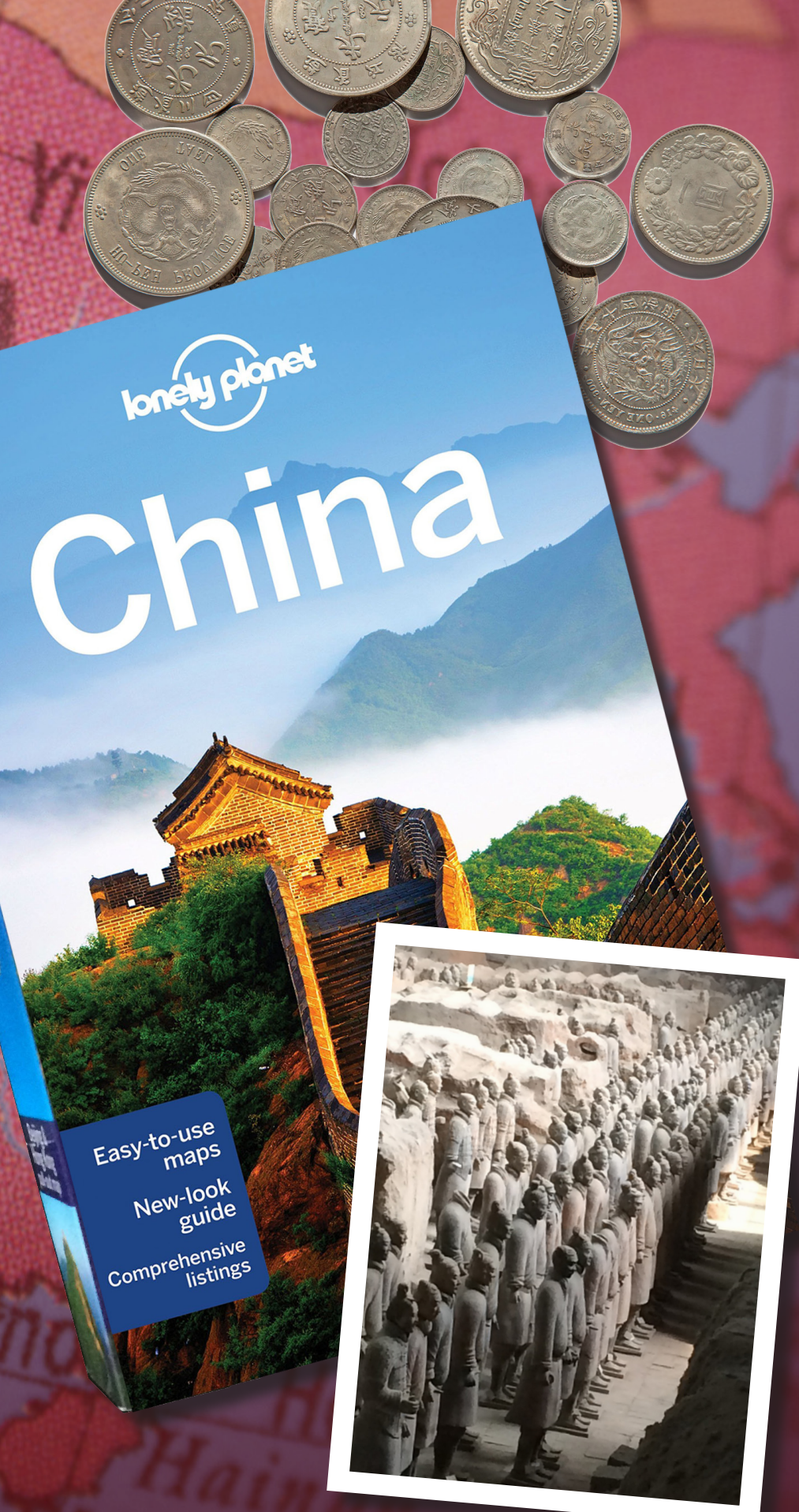




DESTINATION

CHINA





Dear Mom,

ANN, IVAN AND I ARE 30,000 FEET ABOVE THE PACIFIC OCEAN RIGHT NOW, winging our way to Detroit AND, eventually, back to Oklahoma City. While I HAVE ABOUT 13 HOURS TO KILL, I THOUGHT I'D CATCH YOU UP ON OUR 10 AMAZING DAYS IN CHINA.

They treated us like royalty. Someone was at our disposal 24/7. WHO KNEW A SCIENTIST COMING TO TOWN WOULD MERIT SUCH ATTENTION? WE WERE HONORED GUESTS AT EVERY MEAL AND EVERY EVENT.

It's a big deal for our hosts, because they're trying to engage Western researchers AND physicians to collaborate with them. It looks like I'll be their conduit for creating some of those East-West affiliations. It will probably mean more trips, but there are AMAZING opportunities there, AND just think about all those airline miles!

I visited several hospitals devoted to gastrointestinal cancers, AND they asked for my input about what I saw there AND how they operated. At the Shanghai Cancer Research Forum, I gave a lecture AND received an award. It was a real "rock star" moment, complete with cameras flashing AND an interview on a local TV station. We watched the piece later, AND they dubbed my voice in Chinese.

Believe it or not, we had NO itinerary for the entire trip. Every day was a complete surprise. Someone would meet us at just the right time AND get us to the next appointed place. I'm not sure I'd like to travel that way all the time, but it certainly added to the adventure.

Did you catch anything on the news about the typhoon over there? We were waiting at the airport when the storm hit, so we took a bullet train instead. It averaged 185 mph for more than 800 miles from Shanghai to Beijing. AND it gave us a chance to see the countryside (at lightning speed).

Each meal was an event. We'd often sit at a round table with as many as 25 people, helping ourselves to dishes off a huge lazy Susan. Protocol is very important, so my collaborator from M.D. Anderson coached me on behavior. It was very helpful. AND the food—wow! Every meal had two constants: We always started with watermelon, AND there were always duck dishes. Most fun thing to eat? Duck hearts. Really, they're delicious! Pig colon, however, is not.

We visited many of the storied tourist attractions, like the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square AND Emperor Qin's Terracotta Army at Xi'an. Shanghai was a beautiful city, very modern AND elegant with impressive architecture

and winding streets. In Beijing, it felt a bit more rustic, and we took our first ride in a rickshaw. Our driver took us to a place called Treat Street, where you could buy specialty foods. But when we saw that the "treats" were things like tarantulas and baby pythons, we decided to take a pass.

In just 10 days, I was able to make some good connections and find new opportunities for interacting with hospitals and researchers in China. They have access to rich resources like patient samples that are harder to get here. In the U.S., it can be difficult to get enough people to participate in a clinical trial or research study. But in China, where doctors might see 10,000 patients a year, they can get participants easily. That could make a big difference in the success of some of our projects in the lab.

They made me an honorary member of the board of the hospital in Shanghai, so I'll visit them fairly regularly. I'm not sure how long I'll keep my rock-star status, but I'm excited about the potential for the work I can do with my new colleagues there.

I think the trip is catching up with me, so I'm going to sign off and close my eyes. We'll send pictures!

Love,

Dave





DESTINATION  
**ROMA**



Greetings from Rome!

Thanks for holding down the fort (lab) in my absence. This trip has been a whirlwind, with some great talks by Sjögren's syndrome and autoimmune disease experts from all over the world. We're learning a lot about what others are doing and are finding some real possibilities for future joint projects—exactly why we're here.

About 16,000 people attended the European Congress of Rheumatology, including a small contingent of the world's authorities on Sjögren's. In addition to the conference sessions, we got to meet individually with some key folks, including a representative from a German biotech company and collaborators from Norway, England, France and Sweden. They're doing more Sjögren's work in Europe than we do here, so we have the chance to strike up more partnerships. But don't worry; we didn't talk science the entire trip.

Rome is so much like it's portrayed in the movies, with outdoor cafes, motorcycles zooming through the streets and little chapels everywhere. Chris Lessard, John Ice and I visited the Coliseum and the Vatican, where a wedding was taking place. Between the conference and sightseeing, we spent a ton of time on our feet. It was hot, and our hotel was on a hill, so each day ended with a grueling trudge. Thank goodness for strawberry gelato! (I ate it every day without fail.)

Speaking of the hotel, we had a little intrigue while we were there. As we returned one evening, we saw a line of Maseratis with Italian flags parked out front. And men with machine guns! The hotel staff took us through the service elevator to our rooms, so we knew this was the entourage of some bigwig. Later we learned that Vladimir Putin had visited the Vatican that week. You think maybe...?

Ciao for now!

Kathy





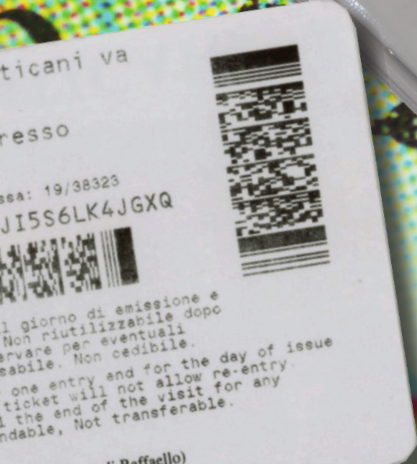
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 Importo € 24,60  
 Data 09/06/15

www.eular.org

www.eular.org







DESTINATION

Norway & Sweden

NORGE • NORWAY • NORWEGEN • NORVEGIA • NORUEGA • NOORWEGEN • NORVÈGE • NOORU

Geiranger

Dear Tata,

In just a few days, we will arrive in Bucharest to see you. Even with several stops, this trip has confirmed how productive it is to meet with my research partners in person. My time with my colleague at the University of Oslo even had an unexpected advantage: extra daylight. With more than 20 hours of sunshine in Norway each day, we had many hours to talk about sepsis, inflammation and blood clotting. It was tiring, but I feel we made much progress together that we might not have made on separate continents. In Sweden, we visited the Nobel Foundation and Museum, where we all received our very own "Nobel Prizes." So really they were foil-wrapped chocolate medals, but it gave us a chance to pretend we had won a prestigious award...at least until we ate them!

We look forward to seeing you, Lovel and Ontica and their families, as well as Cristina's relatives next week. We're ready for some home-cooked food and perhaps a visit to the opera in Budapest. We also hope to spend some time in the mountains, but I'll have to schedule it around my visit and talk at my previous workplace, the Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology of the Romanian Academy.

Until next week  
Florea



Destinatar:

Gheorghe Lupu

Satul Salistea

Comuna Uda

Judetul Arges,

ROMANIA



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PRIORITAIRE  
BI 7034112



Касса • Tour Tickets  
Администратор  
Excursions Manager  
+7(812)610-0540

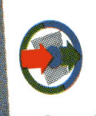
BOARDING PASS / ПОСАДОЧНЫЙ ТАЛОН  
**AEROFLOT**  
Russian Airlines

СПРАВОЧНО-ИНФОРМАЦИОННАЯ  
ДЛЯ ПАССАЖИРОВ ВРЯС



AB Storstockholms Lokaltrafik  
Momsreg.nr SE556013068301  
2015-06-28 15:58:46  
Kvitto fylla på reskassa  
Kortnummer \*\*\*\*\*4635  
Laddat belopp 100,00 kr  
Mytt saldo 100,00 kr  
Standardresa 2 kuponger  
Helt pris  
Djurgårdsfärjan  
Försäljningsställenr 234200  
Organisationsnr 5560879859  
Apparat ESN 00E10C04  
Operatörskort 17737820

Impulskort







DESTINATION  
**INDIA**





July 24, 2015

Dear Will and Theo,

I'm going to start this letter with a parental teaching moment from New Delhi. And it's a simple one: Always buckle your seatbelt.

I'm really glad I took my own advice a few days ago when I climbed into the back seat of a government car in southern India. Because only a few minutes later, I would find myself speeding toward destruction.

Okay, technically, I was on my way to the Kinfra campus of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology. There, Dr. G.B. Nair, who was seated next to me in the car, was planning to give me a tour of his new laboratory. That is, if we made it there alive.

You see, at the moment in question, our Toyota was hurtling toward oncoming traffic, playing chicken with a bus, a pair of motorcycles and a motorized rickshaw. With no more than a blink of an eye to spare, we dodged back into the left lane. (Parental teaching moment #2: Driving on the "wrong" side of the road is one of the remnants of British colonial rule, which ended in 1947.)

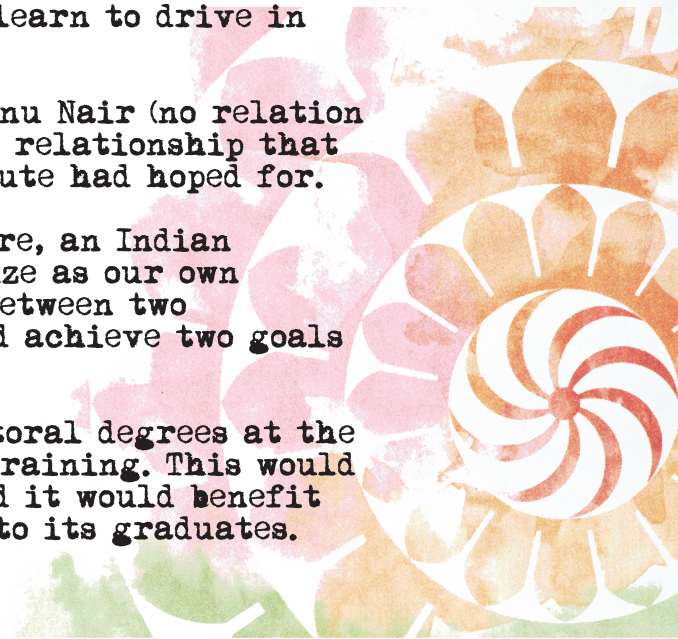
Up until that point, I tried to reassure myself that this ride—and all others on the twisting, chaotic rivers of ceaselessly honking motor vehicles that are Indian roads—was like that Tower of Terror that Theo and I rode at Disneyland a couple of summers ago. As in, something that only seems dangerous.

But I must have exhaled audibly after our car narrowly avoided a collision that would have turned us into Palak Paneer. (PTM #3: That's a northern Indian dish made primarily of pureed spinach.) Or maybe I let out an unconscious yelp. Because Dr. Nair turned to me, smiled reassuringly and said this was just "a typical drive in India." Let's just say this ride made me happy that Will didn't learn to drive in southern India!

As I told you before I left, my OMRF colleague Manu Nair (no relation to Dr. Nair) and I came to India to re-invigorate a relationship that had yet to pay the sort of dividends either institute had hoped for.

In 2008, OMRF formed a partnership with the Centre, an Indian biomedical research institute roughly the same size as our own foundation. The idea had been to create a bridge between two institutes. In particular, we'd hoped that we could achieve two goals by joining forces.

First, we wanted students who'd earned their doctoral degrees at the Centre to come to OMRF to do their post-graduate training. This would provide OMRF with talented young researchers, and it would benefit the Centre by providing scientific opportunities to its graduates.



Second, we wanted to identify scientists at the two institutes with similar scientific interests in hopes that they would establish collaborative research projects. Over time, we hoped these relationships would eventually result in joint publications in scientific journals and, ultimately, grant support from outside sources.

However, seven years later, only one post-doctoral fellow from the Centre had come to OMRF for training, and the partnership had yet to generate a single joint publication or grant. We came here to understand why.

It seems that teenage boys and their parents aren't the only ones who sometimes fail to communicate. Although interacting with people halfway around the world is much easier than it's ever been before, some exchanges require real time together in the same room and at the same table if they are to be effective. This, Manu and I realized, was one of them.

Over the course of three days of meetings, we did our best to get to the heart of the matter. The more time we spent together, the more we learned each other's body language, asked deeper questions, noted uncomfortable silences, and listened to inflections in each other's voices. Often, these conversations took place over cups of tea and biscuits. (PTM #4: Not the kind of biscuits you'd find at KFC. What Indians call biscuits, we'd call cookies.)

The more we listened, the more Manu and I learned that the Centre's leaders were also frustrated by many aspects of our relationship. That its scientists, like ours, felt there had been miscommunications and missed opportunities.

By the end of our visit, we'd fleshed out a plan for jump-starting the post-doctoral fellows program. And we'd spent quality time with researchers at the Centre to identify those who were both suited and eager to work with OMRF researchers.

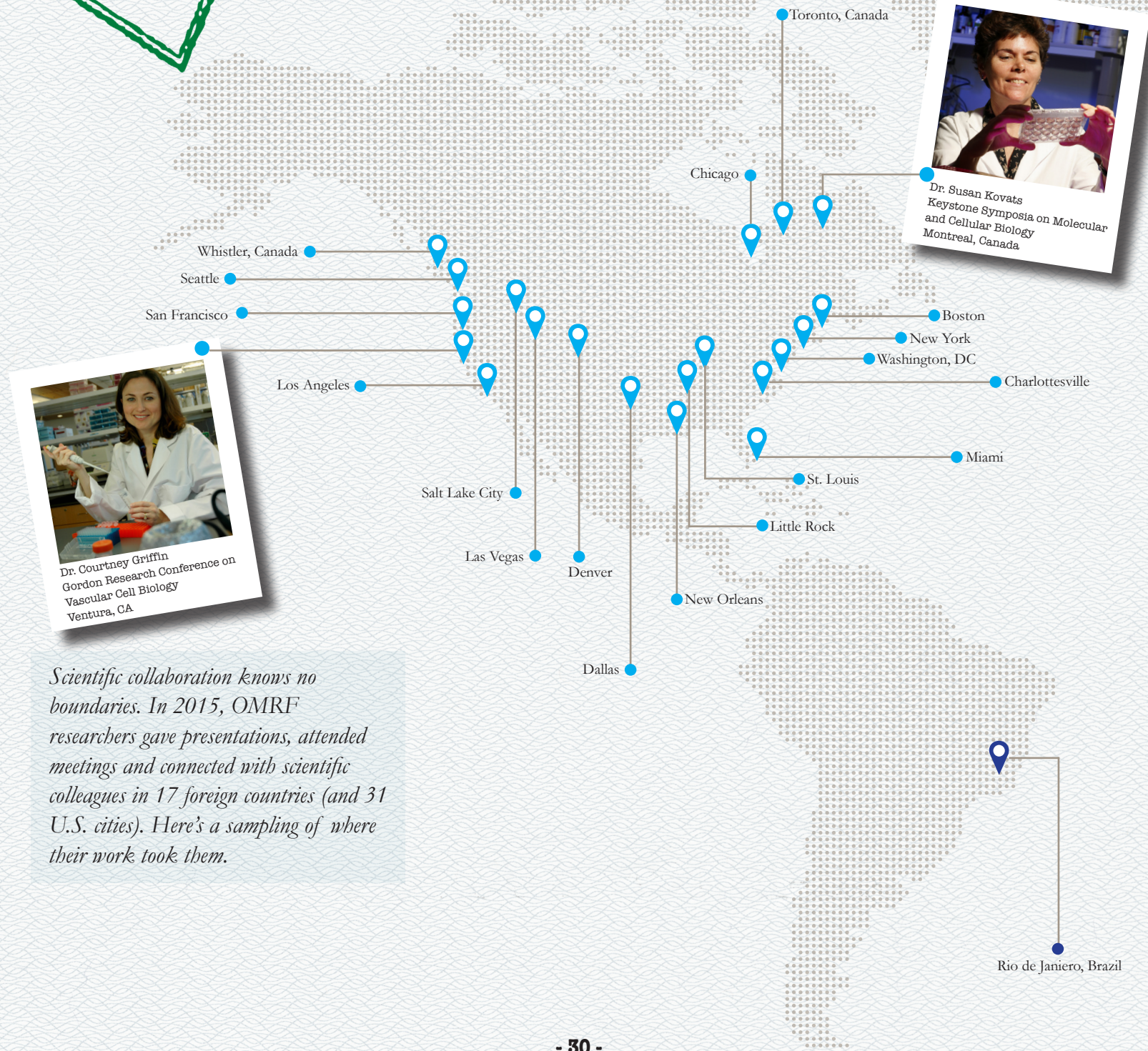
Dr. M. Radhakrishna Pillai, the Centre's director, said he was optimistic about this next chapter of our institutes' relationship. "Now," he said over a good-bye dinner of curried egg rolls and other Indian Chinese food (yes, there is such a thing!), "I think we truly understand one another."

At that point, I knew that our partnership with the Gandhi Centre was on the right track. Sometimes, though, it just takes a little while to learn the rules of the road.

Love,

Dad

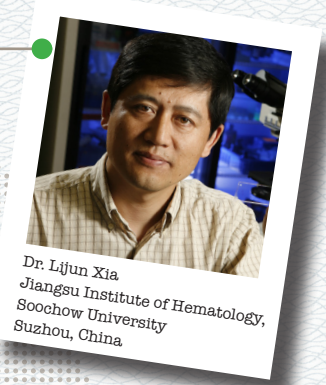
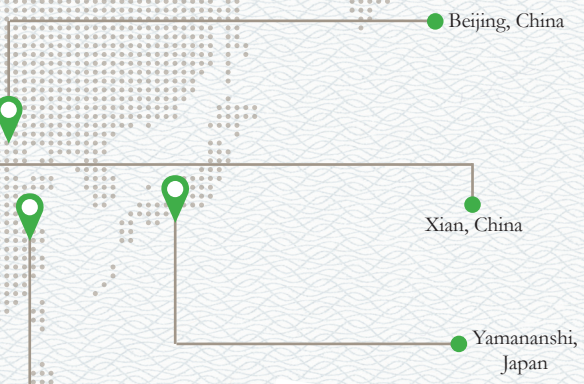
SELECTED  
DESTINATIONS  
2015



*Scientific collaboration knows no boundaries. In 2015, OMRF researchers gave presentations, attended meetings and connected with scientific colleagues in 17 foreign countries (and 31 U.S. cities). Here's a sampling of where their work took them.*



Dr. Hal Scofield  
11th International Congress on  
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus  
Vienna, Austria



Dr. Lijun Xia  
Jiangsu Institute of Hematology,  
Soochow University  
Suzhou, China



Dr. Charles Esmon  
IPITA-IXA-CTS 2015 Joint  
Congress  
Melbourne, Australia

**BEST OF  
2015**

## Welcome to OKC!

More than 30 leading venture capitalists and biotechnology industry executives spent the day in Oklahoma City at OMRF's BioVenture Forum 2015. At the event, executives and principals from U.S. and international pharmaceutical, diagnostics and venture capital firms met to share ideas and forge relationships. For many participants, this was their first visit to Oklahoma. Congressman Tom Cole (R. Okla.) gave the keynote address, and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin welcomed the participants at a networking reception. "It's discussions like these that will lead to greater contributions and participation from Oklahoma in biomedical research nationwide," said Cole.



## Puterbaugh laboratory dedicated

McAlester's Puterbaugh Foundation made a major gift to the foundation in honor of OMRF's president. The \$500,000 donation created the Stephen Prescott, M.D., Laboratory in OMRF's Arthritis and Clinical Immunology Research Program. At a special ceremony, Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Steven Taylor, an OMRF board member and Chairman of The Puterbaugh Foundation, thanked Prescott (who was joined by his wife, Susan) for his tireless work on behalf of OMRF. The lab houses a research team led by Dr. Patrick Gaffney, who holds the J.G. Puterbaugh Chair in Medical Research.

## New center targets diseases of aging

Advances in science have helped people live longer. But with those added years comes an increase in diseases associated with aging. The National Institutes of Health awarded researchers at OMRF, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the Veterans Administration Medical Center a five-year grant to establish the state's first Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in Basic Biology of Aging. The long-term goal of the Oklahoma Shock Center is to focus on the emerging field of "geroscience," the study of how aging impacts and predisposes people to disease.

## A four-star achievement

OMRF earned four stars—the highest possible rating—from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity ranking service. According to Charity Navigator, this top score signals that OMRF "exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause" in the areas of financial health, accountability and transparency. "When one of the nation's leading charity evaluators gives you its seal of approval, it's both humbling and gratifying," says OMRF President Dr. Stephen Prescott. "OMRF makes every effort to ensure that we are good stewards of our supporters' donations, and this ranking tells us we are succeeding."

## Traumatic brain injury findings

OMRF's Dr. Holly Van Remmen made an important contribution to the rapidly emerging field of traumatic brain injury (TBI) research. Increasingly, experts have grown concerned that TBI can contribute to long-term neurodegeneration. In the lab, Van Remmen and her team looked specifically at whether TBI affected the progression of the neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. Using mice genetically altered to develop ALS, Van Remmen found that TBI caused decreased coordination and muscle function, as well as loss of grip strength. "This research does not answer the question of whether suffering a traumatic brain injury can make you more likely to develop ALS, but it shows that TBI can worsen the traits of the disease," says Van Remmen.



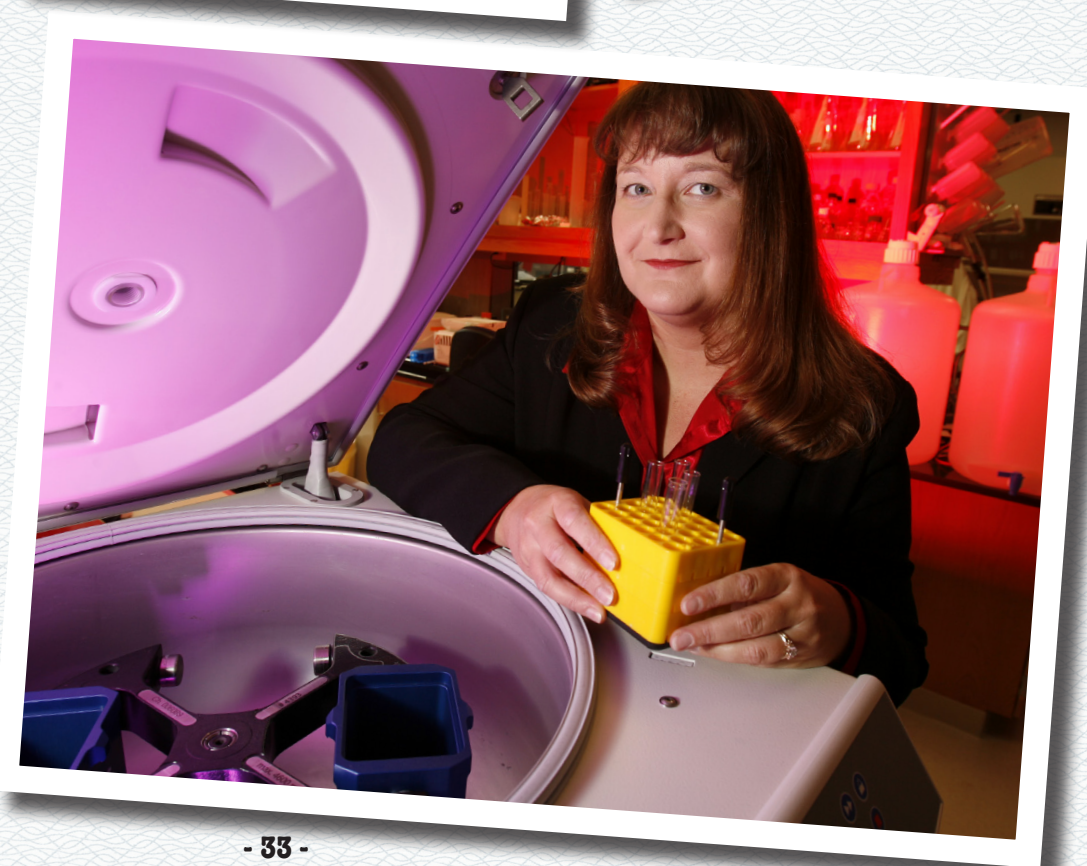
## Fundraising with heart

OMRF's annual "241" events—two events for one great cause—raised \$590,000 to support research on heart disease and stroke. A musical performance by Grammy and CMA award-winning Nitty Gritty Dirt Band got partygoers rocking for research at a wine and music festival. Events capped off the next day with a golf tournament, where 25 teams took to the links to support cardiovascular research in OMRF's laboratories.



## New hope for lupus patients

In lupus and other autoimmune illnesses, disease flares—a sudden worsening of symptoms—can leave a person completely debilitated with no warning. But a discovery by OMRF scientists Drs. Judith James and Melissa Munroe aims to change that. The pair identified 52 disease mediators, which are molecules that regulate inflammation and increase or decrease the chance that a lupus patient will experience a disease flare. A new collaboration between OMRF and Progentec Diagnostics will create tools designed to improve the treatment of autoimmune diseases. The initial project will focus on developing a diagnostic test to identify patients at an increased risk of disease flares in lupus.



# SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



Dr. Rodger McEver worked with 19 scientists from Germany and Sweden on one publication.

*Scientific papers are how OMRF researchers share their discoveries with laboratories and clinics around the world. Those new insights run the gamut of medical conditions, from diabetes to lupus to breast cancer. In 2015, OMRF researchers published 184 papers in some of the world's top scientific journals. On the opposite page, we offer a selection of those publications. And on this page, you can see the global interconnectedness of that work: In the last year alone, OMRF's scientists co-authored papers with researchers from the 37 countries shown on this map.*



Dr. Joan Merrill published a lupus paper with collaborators from South Korea (and Canada, England, Iceland, Mexico, Spain, Scotland and Sweden).

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# HOW WE SPEND A DOLLAR



## 76%

### Research

In nine separate programs, OMRF researchers study a wide array of disease topics, including cancer and brain diseases, cardiovascular disease and autoimmune conditions such as lupus and multiple sclerosis. Research at OMRF benefits people throughout Oklahoma, the United States and the world. Our research, published in the world's leading scientific journals, deepens the ability of scientists and physicians to understand and fight life-threatening illnesses.



## 16%

### Patient Operations

In keeping with our mission of helping more to live longer, healthier lives, OMRF moves new discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic and the patients who need them. In our onsite clinics, we focus on caring for patients with autoimmune diseases and enhancing our understanding of these disorders for future generations. In 2015, OMRF clinics recorded more than 6,000 patient visits. And with 45 clinical trials underway, physicians are bringing the next generation of medications to patients who need them most.



## 8%

### Administrative Costs

For an organization like OMRF, administrative costs are a bit like golf scores: lower is better. Our team of accountants, fundraisers, IT professionals and other administrative employees is essential to supporting the research and clinical arms of the foundation, but we work hard to streamline the costs in those areas. Nonprofit success is often measured by how little an organization devotes to administrative costs while simultaneously achieving its core goals. OMRF's single-digit percentage of administrative expenses places us in an elite group of nonprofits.

OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
Selected Financial Information - Operating Fund

	Prior year	2014-2015
<b>OPERATING REVENUE:</b>		
Competitive research grants:		
National Institutes of Health grants	\$29,028,222	\$25,458,698
Other competitive research grants	<u>7,350,571</u>	<u>9,175,033</u>
Total grants	36,378,793	34,633,731
Private contributions:		
Income and gifts from trusts	6,893,689	7,079,530
Gifts and bequests	143,980	919,153
Contributions	1,736,405	1,910,923
Memorials	<u>696,895</u>	<u>770,783</u>
Total private contributions	9,470,969	10,680,389
Special event revenue:		
Ticket sales and sponsorships	607,523	472,684
Less: direct costs of event	<u>(212,420)</u>	<u>(170,435)</u>
Net revenues from special events	395,103	302,249
Other revenue:		
Clinical revenue, net of provisions for contractual and other adjustments	5,774,897	6,952,995
Interest and investment income	740,421	447,332
Mineral income	1,707,443	1,113,721
Rent	401,597	481,352
Royalties and licensing income	818,689	1,313,724
Gain or loss on disposal of assets	(72,323)	145,562
Other	<u>1,756,518</u>	<u>1,290,751</u>
Total other revenue	11,127,242	11,745,437
Total revenue	57,372,107	57,361,806
Operating revenue from wills, pledges, and other restricted gifts recorded in prior years	6,864,157	6,482,183
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>64,236,264</b>	<b>63,843,989</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		
Program Services - Research	46,613,009	46,610,618
Program Services - Clinic Operations	8,608,451	9,922,312
Support Services - General and administrative	<u>5,034,456</u>	<u>5,042,838</u>
Total operating expenses	\$60,255,916	\$61,575,768
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,980,348</b>	<b>\$2,268,221</b>

# DISCOVERIES CAMPAIGN

Launched soon after Dr. Stephen Prescott joined OMRF as our ninth president in 2006, the Discoveries Campaign drove the largest expansion in the foundation's 70-year history. Completed in 2015, this fundraising effort secured nearly \$100 million and accomplished its twin goals: recruiting a new generation of scientists and building a new research and clinical facility to house them.

Thanks to the generosity of 857 donors, OMRF has added more than two dozen new principal scientists and physicians to its staff. Already, those researchers have made a series of high-impact discoveries. They've identified the potential genetic roots of lupus and other autoimmune diseases. They've devised promising experimental methods for stopping the growth of tumors in breast cancer. And their insights have deepened our knowledge of conditions ranging from diabetes to Lou Gehrig's disease.

With the construction of our eight-story research tower, OMRF added a state-of-the-art laboratory and clinical facility that is home to many of these rising research stars. Completed in 2011, the tower includes dozens of new laboratories, the Samuel Roberts Noble Cardiovascular Institute and the OMRF Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence, a clinic that treats thousands of Oklahoma MS patients. Built with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind, the building was named a finalist for the Renewable Energy World North America Award. It also won a worldwide competition to secure the S-Lab Award for best new research laboratory.



On the next page, we have listed the names of the leading donors to the Discoveries Campaign. But every gift, large or small, helped make the effort a success.

Moving forward, we will keep adding talented researchers and physicians to our staff. Those initiatives will be supported by ongoing "mini-campaigns," which will raise funds targeted to research in cancer, MS and heart disease.

By continuously stoking the fires of innovation, we can ensure Oklahoma stays on the leading edge of biomedical research. And that OMRF scientists continue making discoveries that make a difference.

## Mini-Campaigns

### Multiple Sclerosis Campaign

Co-chairs: Nancy Ellis and Jim Morris

### Cancer Campaign

Co-chairs: Christy Everest and Gene Rainbolt

### Cardiovascular Campaign

Co-chairs: Hiram Champlin and Bill Hawley



### \$5,000,000 and above

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments  
Chapman Charitable Trusts  
E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation  
National Institutes of Health  
The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.  
State of Oklahoma Opportunity Fund

### \$1,000,000 to \$4,999,999

Mary K. Chapman Foundation  
Mr. David J. Chernicky  
The Chickasaw Nation  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Hardesty Family Foundation  
The Hocker Foundation  
Inasmuch Foundation  
The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc.  
The Masonic Charity Foundation  
Katie and Aubrey McClendon  
New Source Energy Corporation  
Presbyterian Health Foundation  
Rainbolt Family  
Records-Johnston Family Foundation  
Sarkeys Foundation  
Stephenson Cancer Center  
The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation

### \$500,000 to \$999,999

241 Event 2014 - Cancer  
241 Event 2013 - Multiple Sclerosis

Virginia and John Groendyke  
McCasland Foundation  
Puterbaugh Foundation

### \$100,000 to \$499,999

Ann Simmons Alspaugh  
Anonymous  
Chesapeake Energy Corporation  
ConocoPhillips  
The Dillingham Family  
Drs. Naomi and Charles T. Esmon  
William D. Hawley, M.D.  
William Randolph Hearst Foundation  
The Kerr Foundation, Inc.  
Patti and Donald J. Leeman  
Elaine and Harrison Levy, Jr.  
The Merrick Foundation  
Lou Ann and Jim M. Morris  
MS Bridge Fund  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Glenn W. Peel Foundation  
Susan and Stephen Prescott  
Robert Glenn Rapp Foundation  
Nancy and George Records  
Dr. John H. Saxon III

### \$50,000 to \$99,999

Linda and Lance Benham  
Libby and G.T. Blankenship  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma  
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill B. Burruss, Jr.  
Janice and Hiram H. Champlin  
Mrs. Nancy P. Ellis  
Clyde R. Evans Charitable Trust  
Malinda Berry and Dick S. Fischer  
Courtney and Carl H. Holliday  
The Herman G. Kaiser Foundation  
Nadine and Frank A. McPherson

Total gifts under \$50,000 = \$1,105,008.35



*Between January 1 and December 31, 2015, almost 6,000 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.*

### **\$5,000,000 and above**

Chapman Charitable Trusts

### **\$100,000 to \$999,999**

241 Event 2015 Proceeds  
 Mary K. Chapman Foundation  
 The Chickasaw Nation  
 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
 Estate of Dorothy Farmer  
 Estate of Richard Ralph Gamel  
 E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation  
 Estate of Mabel B. Harp  
 Inasmuch Foundation  
 Marvin and Ruth Lebow Medical Research Foundation  
 Estate of Donald E. Moon  
 Presbyterian Health Foundation  
 Putnam City Schools Cancer Fund  
 Estate of Essie Roark  
 Sarkeys Foundation  
 United Way of Central Oklahoma  
 Estate of Seba Whitehead  
 The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation

### **\$50,000 to \$99,999**

Ann Simmons Alspaugh  
 Janice and Hiram H. Champlin  
 Wilma Davis-McElmurry Trust  
 Clyde R. Evans Charitable Trust  
 William D. Hawley, M.D.  
 George W. and Valeria G. Howard Trust  
 Beth and Dale Matherly  
 Mr. Jacob Matherly/Matherly Mechanical Contractors, Inc.  
 The Merrick Foundation

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.  
 Glenn W. Peel Foundation  
 Estate of Hazel Posey  
 The Puterbaugh Foundation  
 Dr. and Mrs. John H. Saxon III

### **\$25,000 to \$49,999**

The Anschutz Foundation  
 Estate of Joe Paul and Mary Alice Boone  
 Leigh and J. Richard Bradley  
 Mr. and Mrs. Merrill B. Burruss, Jr.  
 Christy and Jim Everest  
 Virginia and John Groendyke  
 Mr. Tim Headington  
 Richard K. and Ruth S. Lane Memorial Trust  
 Marvin E. Lebow Trust  
 Katie and Aubrey McClendon  
 LaDonna and Herman Meinders  
 Lou Ann and Jim Morris  
 Kay L. and Clark Musser  
 OMRF Fleming Scholarship - OCCF  
 Susan and Stephen Prescott

### **\$10,000 to \$24,999**

Elizabeth and Greg Allen/Allen Family Charitable Foundation  
 American Fidelity Assurance Company/  
 American Fidelity Foundation  
 Elizabeth and G.T. Blankenship  
 Harry and Louise Brown Foundation  
 Becky and Jim C. Buchanan  
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 Frontiers of Science Foundation of  
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 G. Ed Hudgins Family Fund - OCCF  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Nichols  
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 Premier Assets, Inc.

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 Family Foundation  
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 Oklahoma Electrical Supply Company  
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### \$1,000 to \$4,999

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 Jo D. and Gene Brown  
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 Gayle A. and Randy J. Dekker  
 Paula V. and Lanny J. Dickmann, Jr.  
 Chieko S. and Jack E. Dieken  
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 Cathy A. and Jed Dillingham  
 Kay and Dan L. Dillingham  
 Lisa and Chad Dillingham  
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 Mrs. Marilyn A. Doty

Mrs. Arlene B. Dougherty  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walt Duncan  
 J.E. Dunn Construction Company  
 Barbara and Bill Durrett  
 The Honorable Claire V. Eagan and Mr. Anthony  
   J. Loretto, Jr.  
 Susan and Carl E. Edwards  
 Mrs. Cherri A. Eggleston  
 Mr. Jerry D. Eggleston  
 Christi and Pete Eischen  
 Pete Eischen Chevrolet Company  
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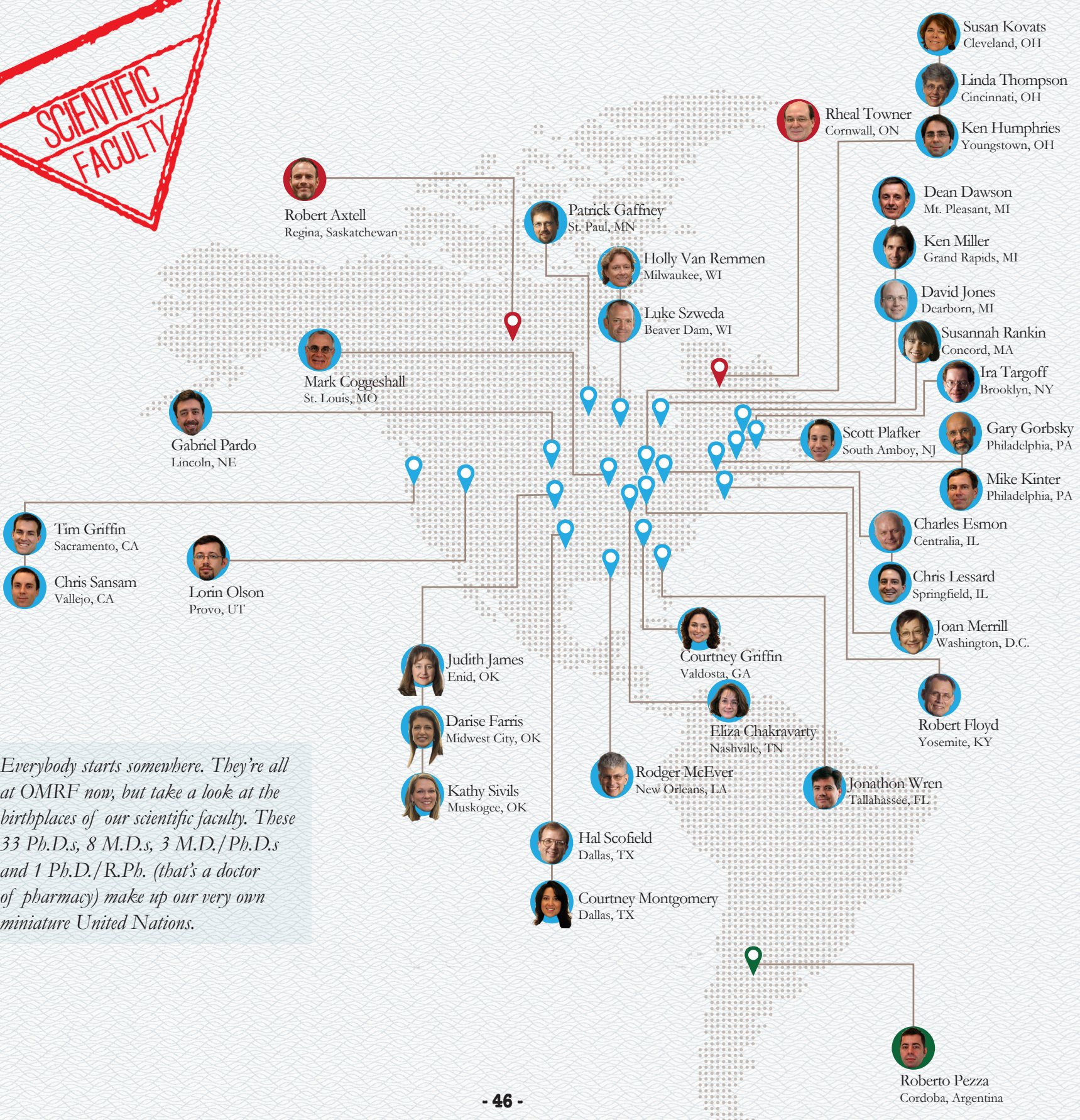
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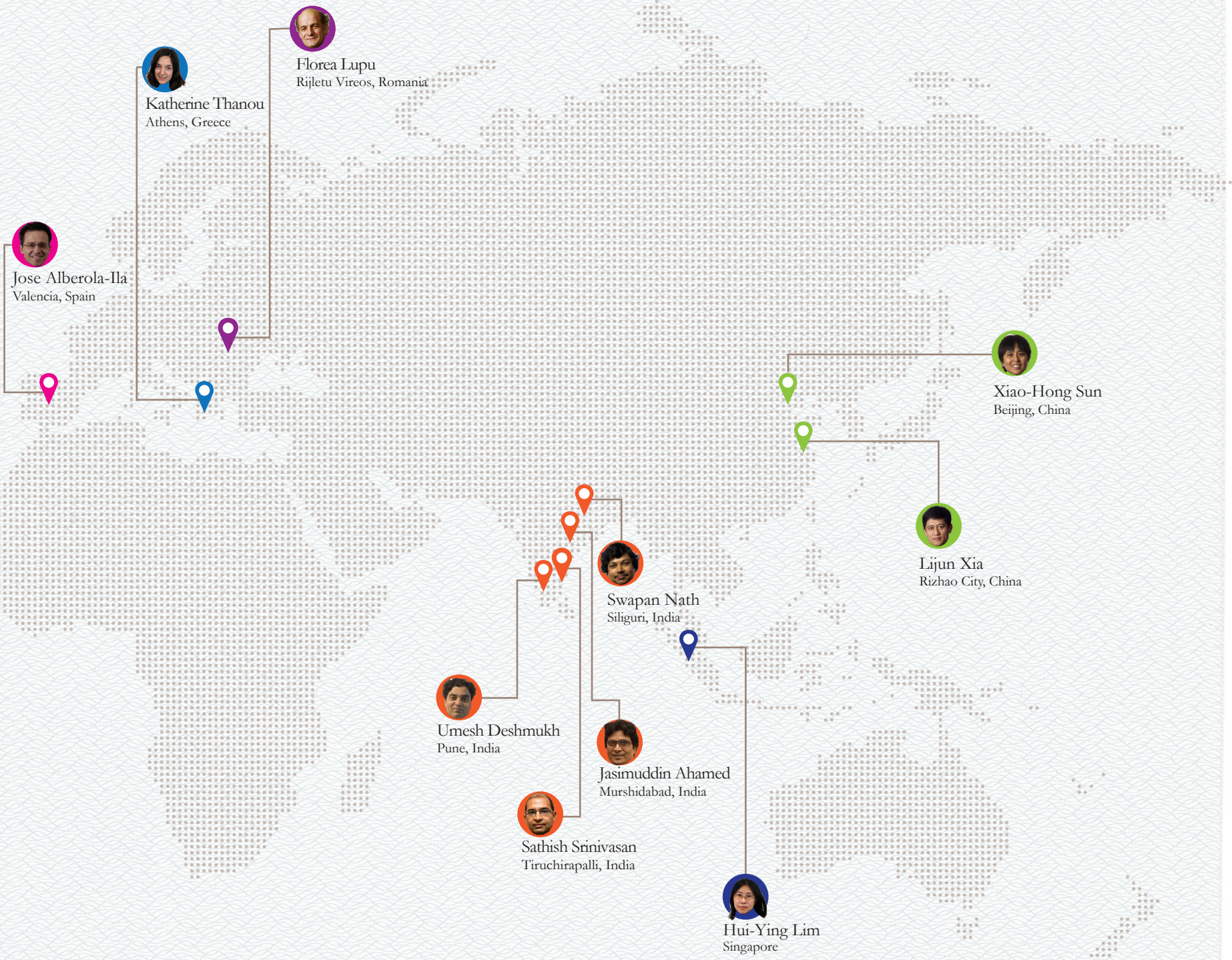
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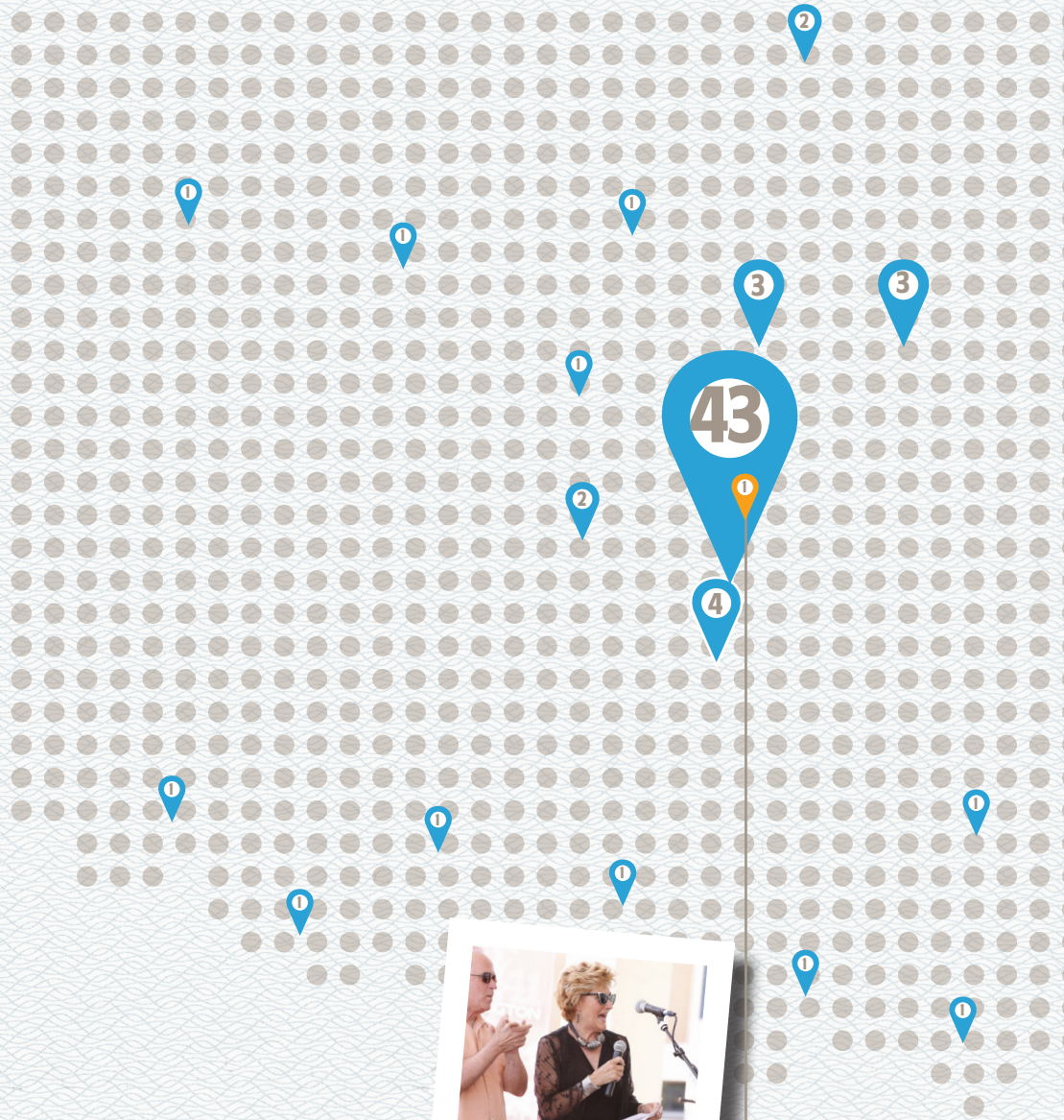
*Everybody starts somewhere. They're all at OMRF now, but take a look at the birthplaces of our scientific faculty. These 33 Ph.D.s, 8 M.D.s, 3 M.D./Ph.D.s and 1 Ph.D./R.Ph. (that's a doctor of pharmacy) make up our very own miniature United Nations.*



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*How does OMRF keep going places? It takes the guidance of a group of leaders whose vision and dedication keep the foundation's programs strong. OMRF's 84 directors bring a cross-section of skills honed in the business, civic and volunteer sectors that they share with administrators and scientists to ensure that the foundation operates at the highest possible level. OMRF directors hail from 20 different Oklahoma counties, as well as Michigan, Texas and Virginia. Our two newest directors, Mindy Mahaney and Judy Hatfield, joined the board in 2015.*



Judy Hatfield (Oklahoma City) co-chaired OMRF's 241 fundraiser in 2015.



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Muskogee

Paul Schulte  
Kingfisher

Phyllis Stough  
Oklahoma City

Ross Swimmer  
Tulsa

Becky Switzer  
Norman

The Hon. Steven Taylor  
McAlester

Betsy Thorpe  
Oklahoma City

Greg Walton, M.D.  
Oklahoma City

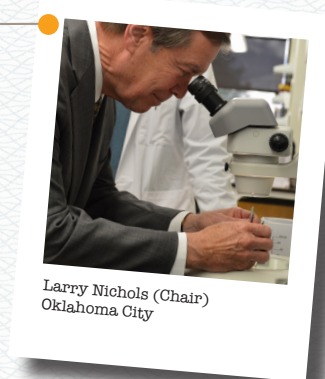
Rainey Williams, Jr.  
Oklahoma City

Deane Wymer  
Fairview

\*Life Director



*This group of national business and thought leaders helps spread the word about OMRF outside of Oklahoma. In 2015, the Council gathered in Washington, DC, and welcomed a distinguished group of Washington-area guests that included Congressman Tom Cole (R. Okla.) Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. By raising national awareness of the foundation's successes, the council helps connect OMRF to individuals, corporations and foundations that can provide support to the foundation.*





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