

OMRF

Atto

2018

2018 Annual Report

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation



Aging Well

Dr. Holly Van Remmen wants to keep people “stronger for longer.” Her research at OMRF focuses on preserving muscle as we age. “Currently, the only proven ways of minimizing muscle loss are diet and exercise, but they only work for so long, even in the healthiest individuals,” she says. In 2018, she and Dr. Rizwan Qaisar found that an experimental compound slowed muscle atrophy and improved muscular function in mice. “Muscle loss and weakness are the main causes of dependency in the elderly, so developing a way to prevent that would be a significant breakthrough,” says Qaisar, who received a Diamond Award from the American Federation of Aging Research to continue the promising work at OMRF.



On the Oklahoma River, the Dragon Boat League includes a race category exclusively for seniors; to compete in the "Wise Dragon" division, paddlers must be at least 60 or older.

B



the Chicka Nation

Virginia Tech

MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOR
DR. JAMES H. HARRIS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008
8:00 AM
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHICKA NATION
STADIUM
1000 STEPHENSON DRIVE
STATENBURG, VA 22150
ADMISSION IS FREE
BY INVITATION ONLY
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT THE CHICKA NATION
OFFICE AT (800) 868-8686
WWW.CHICKANATION.COM

1221M

Blood

“Make thick my blood; stop up the access and passage to remorse.” In *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare wasn’t writing about coagulation. But in 2018, cardiovascular biologists at OMRF published 15 research papers on this topic, which is crucial to understanding and treating illnesses ranging from heart attack to stroke to sepsis, a deadly blood poisoning.

Blues Brother

As lead guitarist in the band that backed John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd in the 1980 film “Blues Brothers,” Steve Cropper only added to a legendary career that included writing and playing guitar on Otis Redding’s enduring classic “(Sittin’ on) The Dock of the Bay;” co-writing “In the Midnight Hour” with Wilson Pickett, and being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as part of the band Booker T. & the M.G.’s. In October, Cropper joined singer-songwriter Dave Mason, who co-founded the British band Traffic, to headline OMRF’s seventh annual “241” fundraising events. In tandem with a golf tournament the following day, the wine and music festival raised \$695,000 for research at OMRF.



Care

6,393

Patient visits to OMRF’s autoimmune disease clinics in 2018

Multiple sclerosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis

Primary conditions treated

37

Active clinical trials

Catching Scientific Errors

Dr. Jonathan Wren hates mistakes. Little ones, big ones – but especially gaffes that, surprisingly, plague top-level scientific papers. In research published in the journal *Bioinformatics*, the OMRF researcher showed how a computer program he’s developed can sniff out a wide range of blunders that appear in scientific studies: mathematical errors, misspelled chemical names and broken web links represent three of the most common hiccups. The program, based on sophisticated algorithms, can also detect more complicated mistakes, like statistical discrepancies in clinical trials that can spell the difference between a drug reaching the market or being rejected by the Food and Drug Administration. In an initial test, Wren found errors in about 5 percent of all published statistics and computations in scientific literature. “That number does not have to be that high, and we are creating a way to cut it down significantly,” he says. Specifically, he’s working to develop the program into a web service that analyzes papers before publication. “The goal is to stop these errors from ever appearing.”

The Chickasaw Nation

Heart attacks and stroke disproportionately strike Native populations. With a new grant from the Chickasaw Nation, researchers at OMRF will work with tribal cardiologists to compare risk factors for heart disease in Chickasaw patients versus those from non-Native populations. The ultimate goal of the partnership will be to identify genes that predispose certain people or groups to heart disease.



Christy Everest

When she joined OMRF as a director in 2008, Christy Gaylord Everest followed in the footsteps of her late father and grandfather, who helped lead the foundation's board for nearly 40 years. In the decade since, she's continued her family's legacy of service to OMRF, chairing the board's Development Committee and co-chairing a fundraising effort that generated more than \$10 million to expand OMRF's cancer program. She's also contributed financial support for research and capital expansion projects through the Gaylord Foundation and personal giving. To honor her efforts and support, at its annual honors and awards ceremony in April, OMRF presented Everest with its 2018 Board of Directors Distinguished Service Award. Then, in November, the family tradition stretched to a fourth generation when Everest's daughter Tricia joined the board. "Christy has been a tremendous advocate for medical research and friend to OMRF," says Dr. Stephen Prescott, OMRF's president. "The foundation is a better place because of her."



Divide and Conquer

Cell division is at the heart of all life. When it goes awry, the consequences can be devastating, causing birth defects and cancer. In 2018, Drs. Gary Gorbsky and Roberto Pezza received a pair of new grants to study different aspects of how cells divide, while Dr. Chris Sansam discovered a way in which cells duplicate themselves accurately and completely during the process. This new finding, says Sansam, will allow researchers to work toward new drug targets for cancer.

Do Carbs Cause Arthritis?

Maybe. In a study led by Dr. Tim Griffin, researchers found that the carbohydrate composition of diets increased the risk of osteoarthritis in laboratory mice – even when the animals didn't differ in weight. The primary culprits: starch and sugar.



The Eyes Have It

With a new grant from the National Eye Institute, Dr. Scott Plafker began studying whether a compound that's naturally produced in broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts can protect eyes from macular degeneration as they age. Called sulforaphane, it's previously been shown to guard cells from stress and to have anti-cancer effects. "I'm very excited about this, because sulforaphane is readily available in vegetables," says Plafker, who joined OMRF in 2011. "People can get it with ease, and they can get it without prescriptions or high costs. That's the best kind of treatment."



Finding Hidden Killers

For years, physicians have puzzled over why people with "clean" colonoscopies develop colon cancer. "Some polyps are embedded in the surface of the colon, and they're also flat and covered up," says Dr. David Jones, who holds the Jeannine Rainbolt Chair in Cancer Research at OMRF. "This makes them incredibly difficult to detect." In experiments, Jones analyzed the genetic composition of the hidden polyps. "Most cancers – and most polyps – need more than one mutation to form. But in these polyps, only one gene was mutated." Researchers could create a test to find these genetic markers prior to a colonoscopy. "It would be a way for the doctors to know to look for a hiding polyp." Jones published the findings in the scientific journal *PLOS One*.

Fleming Scholars

Chosen from a pool of almost 100 state high school and college students, 12 of Oklahoma's most promising young scientists spent the summer at OMRF as Sir Alexander Fleming Scholars, working on research projects that ranged from heart disease to drug addiction.



Four Stars

For the 16th time, OMRF received the highest possible ranking¹ from the nation's largest evaluator of nonprofits. "This indicates that OMRF adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way," says Michael Thatcher, president and CEO of Charity Navigator. "This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets OMRF apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."



A Golden Anniversary

OMRF closed its research hospital in 1976. But in 2018, we met a former patient who celebrated a remarkable milestone: 50 years since he'd been diagnosed with a cancer thought to be terminal. The experimental treatments that Greg Kindell, now 67, received at OMRF as a senior in high school in 1968 drove his leukemia into remission, and the disease never returned.

Good Teeth, Good Health

That toothbrush of yours may prevent more than cavities. A new study from OMRF's Drs. Umesh Deshmukh and Harini Bagavant found that lupus patients who'd been exposed to gum-disease-causing bacteria showed a greater incidence of lupus disease activity. "A small change like brushing and flossing regularly could benefit patients by allowing them to modify their treatment with fewer drugs or less powerful dosages," says Bagavant.

1. Using publicly available financial information, Charity Navigator promotes intelligent giving by providing report cards for U.S. and international charities. The nonprofit organization measures performance in categories such as fundraising efficiency, expenses, revenue and expense growth, and working capital ratios. It then assigns each charity a score from zero to four stars.



High School Heroes

Students from Stillwater High delivered a check in March to OMRF for \$8,136.44, the proceeds from Pink Out Week, which included a bake sale, a hat day, '80s dress day and a silent auction. Then, in September, Putnam City Schools presented a \$100,000 donation to OMRF. The district raised the money as part of its annual cancer drive, which has now generated \$3.6 million to support OMRF since 1975. "I'm so proud that generations of Putnam City students, school staff and parents have invested in research to fight cancer," says Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent of Putnam City Schools. "What Putnam City and OMRF have is a rare partnership."

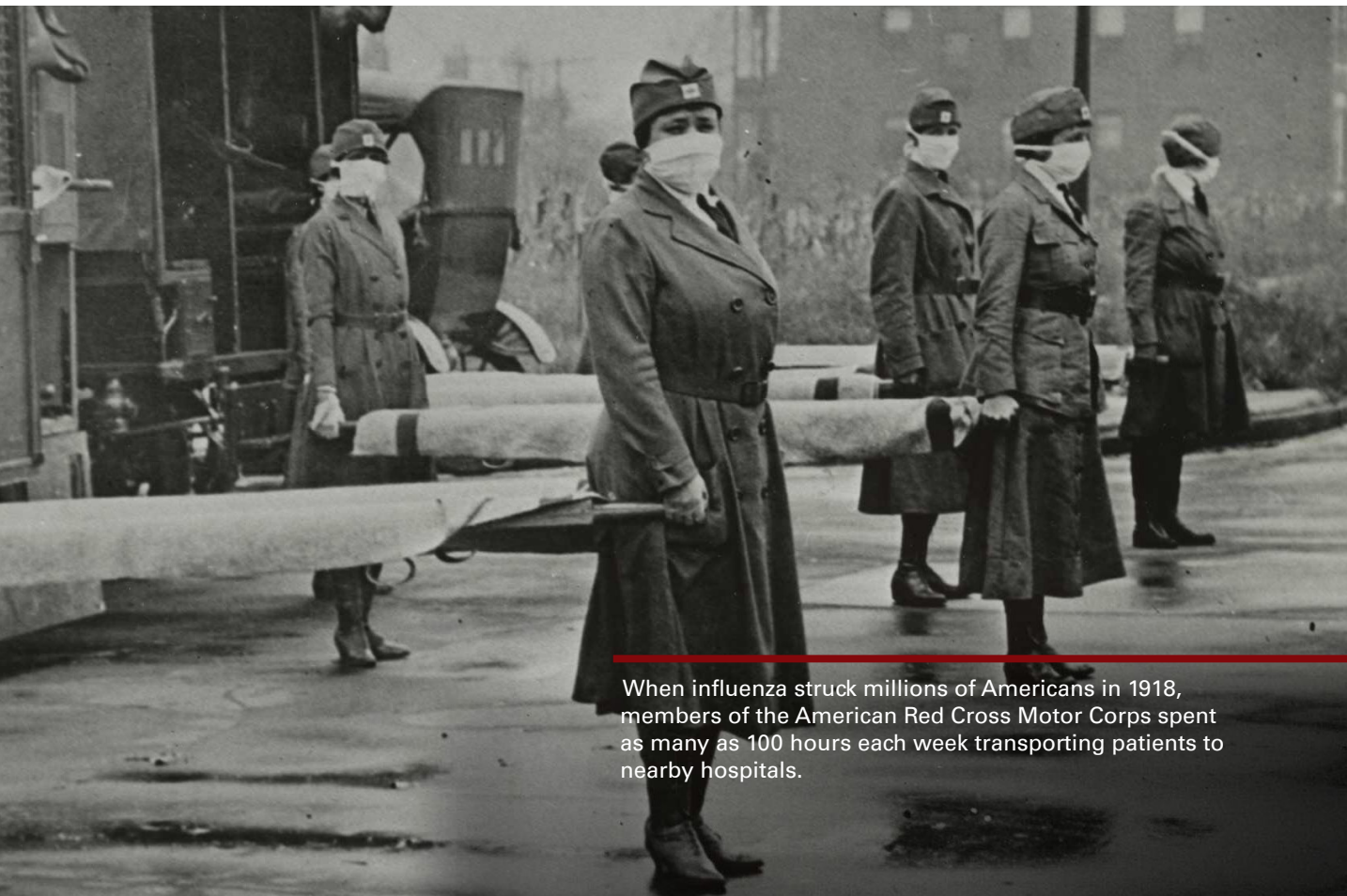


I

Influenza

One hundred years ago, as World War I came to an end, an even greater scourge reared its head. “The 1918 influenza pandemic was the deadliest event in all of human history,” says Dr. David Morens, a scientist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. “It killed more people than any war, any pandemic, the Black Death, AIDS, you can pick your terrible event.” Experts estimate that the pandemic claimed 50 to 100 million lives worldwide. And even today, its toll continues: The flu that comes to our communities each year is a descendant of that 1918 virus. Because the pathogen continuously mutates, scientists must fight to stay one step ahead.

“The fact that we need a new vaccine every single year is a huge and expensive process that can be very inefficient,” says Dr. Jose Alberola-Ila. In May, the OMRF researcher received a five-year grant from the NIAID to study a novel population of cells that appear to be protective against influenza. In experiments, Alberola-Ila found that lab mice with greater numbers of the cells were better protected from the virus. “All the mice we looked at had the flu, but the ones with more of these cells lost less weight, got less sick and recovered faster,” he says. The new grant will help Alberola-Ila and his research team understand why. “What we are learning could be a very real way of improving vaccination strategies in the long term, and that is an exciting opportunity.”



When influenza struck millions of Americans in 1918, members of the American Red Cross Motor Corps spent as many as 100 hours each week transporting patients to nearby hospitals.

Innovation District

The 1.3 square miles that surround OMRF account for more than 10,000 jobs and a major chunk of Oklahoma City's health-related economy. Still, the area lacks for residential density and retail businesses. In 2018, working with OMRF and other community partners, the city launched the Innovation District initiative, which aims to transform the area into a live-work-eat-play hub.

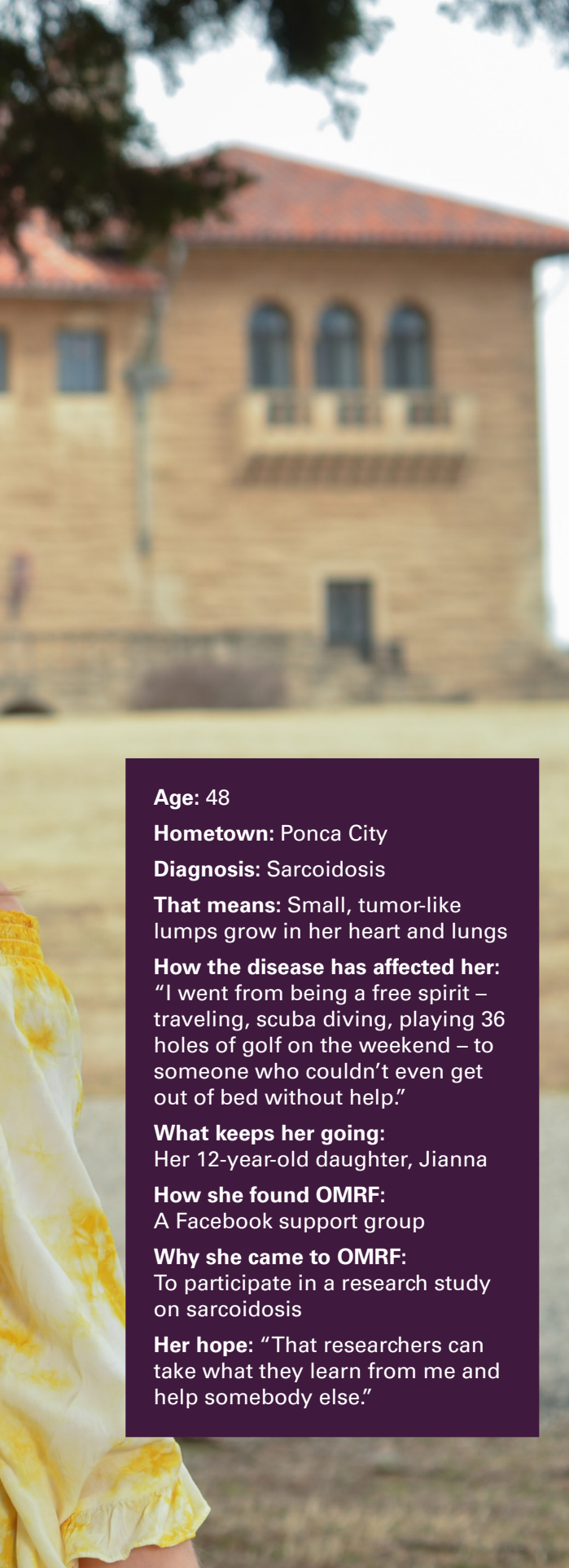




J

Jamie Mangelinkx





Age: 48

Hometown: Ponca City

Diagnosis: Sarcoidosis

That means: Small, tumor-like lumps grow in her heart and lungs

How the disease has affected her:

“I went from being a free spirit – traveling, scuba diving, playing 36 holes of golf on the weekend – to someone who couldn’t even get out of bed without help.”

What keeps her going:

Her 12-year-old daughter, Jianna

How she found OMRF:

A Facebook support group

Why she came to OMRF:

To participate in a research study on sarcoidosis

Her hope: “That researchers can take what they learn from me and help somebody else.”

Jerry Balentine

In a legal career that marked its 43rd year in 2018, Jerry Balentine has created more than 3,000 estate plans for families and individuals. But with three particularly painful losses in his life – siblings taken by breast cancer and Alzheimer’s – the Oklahoma City attorney doesn’t just encourage others to give. Balentine and his law firm, Evans & Davis, have made more than 1,000 donations to OMRF in memory of clients, friends and colleagues who have passed away. “Giving to OMRF,” says Balentine, “reminds all of us that something good can come from very painful and difficult times.”



Kathryn Jo Foley

Sharp-witted. Feisty. Possessed of a generous spirit. This is how those who knew Jo Foley described her. When she passed away in November at the age of 85, she displayed that generosity by leaving her estate to OMRF. Although she’d never given to the foundation in life, Foley, who’d worked at the Oklahoma City Water Department, had lost many close to her to disease. Upon her death, she donated all of her assets – more than \$1 million in total – to fund OMRF research on cancer, which claimed the life of her daughter, Vicki.



Learning From Failure

Since Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved only one new drug for lupus. “I have been involved in more than 30 failed clinical trials, and they did not all need to fail,” says OMRF’s Dr. Joan Merrill. This past spring, Merrill co-authored a study calling for an overhaul in testing new lupus medications. The key, she says, is to shrink the size of trials, which would enable the use of scientific advances to select individual patients most likely to benefit from a specific therapy. “This could lead to more approvals of effective drugs and will prevent ineffective ones from reaching the market.”



Dr. Joan Merrill

Let’s Make a Deal

The technology

An antibody created by OMRF cardiovascular biologist Dr. Charles Esmon

What it does

Binds to activated protein C, a natural blood thinner produced by the body

Corporate partner

Shanghai RAAS Blood Products

What’s next

Shanghai RAAS plans to develop the antibody into a drug to treat hemophilia or injuries such as gunshot wounds

Why it matters

“Developing new treatments for hemophilia and traumatic bleeding would help fill significant, unmet needs for patients,” says OMRF Vice President of Technology Ventures Manu Nair, who put together the collaboration.





OMRF's Dr. Wan Hee Yoon visits with a donor at the foundation in May 2018.

Loyal Donors

On an evening in May, OMRF welcomed a special group of people: All 110 had made gifts to the foundation for at least five years. As a thank-you for their support, OMRF hosted the donors for an evening of learning about research in five interactive lab stations featuring tutorials and experiments with foundation scientists. "This was such a nice night, and it was delightful to be recognized," says Margaret Vater, a donor since 2012. "We can see our donations are being used the right way. The scientists are doing fascinating work."



Dr. Joel Guthridge

Lupus Genetics

"We know lupus has a strong genetic basis," says Dr. Swapan Nath. "But in order to better treat the disease, we have to identify the genes associated with it." In October, Nath and his OMRF colleague Dr. Joel Guthridge² received a four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to study a pair of genes believed to contribute to the autoimmune disease. To date, OMRF researchers have played a role in identifying or confirming 65 of the 101 known genes associated with lupus, which affects an estimated 1.5 million Americans.

2. Guthridge also directs OMRF's ultra-cold biorepository, which houses more than 1 million biological samples donated by patients suffering from conditions that include lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia and multiple sclerosis. With 9,500 cubic feet of storage at temperatures as low as -80 degrees Celsius (-112 Fahrenheit), the facility is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S.



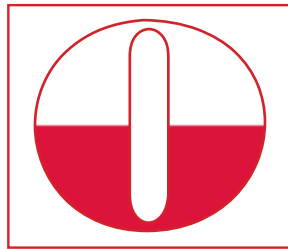
Multiple Sclerosis

MS robs sufferers of balance, muscle control and, sometimes, sight. Last year, Drs. Gabriel Pardo and Tania Reyna treated 1,989 patients in OMRF's Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence. Meanwhile, on the floor above, Dr. Bob Axtell and his research team figured out how certain immune cells communicate to drive the disease process. By incorporating clinical observations into their work, scientists like Axtell can move faster and further than by traditional laboratory experiments alone. The end product, they hope, will be more effective therapies for patients.



New Blood

Four new principal scientists opened labs at OMRF in 2018. Two completed fellowships at Ivy League universities and will study biological processes underlying, respectively, heart disease and Alzheimer's. One was promoted from within OMRF, where he focuses on understanding the causes of lupus and other autoimmune diseases. The fourth joined the foundation after more than a decade leading a lab at Colorado State University. At OMRF, he'll continue to pioneer innovative, cross-disciplinary approaches aimed at slowing the aging process.



Oklahoma!

75

Years since the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical first opened on Broadway

0.25%

The $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent royalty payment OMRF receives from each performance as the result of an estate gift the foundation received in 1977

\$17,398.49

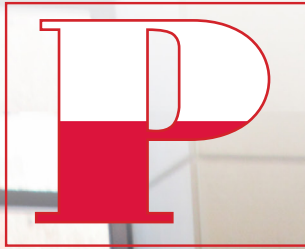
Royalty income generated in 2018 to support OMRF research on cancer and heart disease; this figure should increase in 2019 with a Broadway revival of the beloved show

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

A theater company based in Ashland, Oregon, staged an *Oklahoma!* revival in which Curly and Laurey, the central couple, were both women. The production routinely packed the Angus Bowman Theater, generating a box office share of \$1,018.52 for OMRF. The reimagined musical received an admiring write-up in *The New York Times*, which called it "a sprightly hit."

Overcoming Addiction

Dr. Michael Beckstead is researching the role that dopamine, a naturally generated chemical, plays in addiction to drugs like methamphetamine and cocaine. "Pretty much every drug of abuse causes a spike of dopamine in the brain," says Beckstead, who published a series of studies on the topic in 2018. By better understanding the role of dopamine in addiction, he hopes to find effective therapies. "If we can develop new intervention strategies, that would be an important step forward."



Poland

- A.** A country with a population of roughly 38.5 million people
- B.** Birthplace of numerous notable scientists, including co-inventor of the hydrogen bomb Stanislaw Ulam and astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, who formulated the model of the solar system that put Earth, rather than the sun, at the center
- C.** The home of nine current OMRF research trainees, who are at the foundation as part of a yearlong program for master's degree candidates in biology



Positive Tom



For the 12th straight year, OMRF hosted a Halloween event for nearly 70 trick-or-treaters from Positive Tomorrows, Oklahoma City's only elementary school and social service agency specifically serving children and families experiencing homelessness. OMRF staff dimmed the lights, adorned offices and hallways with spider webs and other spooky décor, then handed out goodies to the children, who paraded door-to-door in costumes created by students at Oklahoma City University's Ann Lacy School of Dance and Arts Management.



A Quest to Treat Sickle Cell

An estimated 100,000 people in this country suffer from sickle cell disease. The genetic illness causes red blood cells to form a crescent or "sickle," which results in inflammation, excruciating pain and, too often, organ damage or even death. Thanks to discoveries by OMRF's Dr. Rod McEver, an experimental medication to treat the disease is poised to seek FDA approval in 2019.³ "As a physician, I've seen these patients. Their suffering is extreme," he says. In clinical trials, the new drug showed a marked reduction in pain crises suffered by sickle cell patients. Although it would not cure the condition, says McEver, "I hope it will help a lot of people until we can do more."



Regenerative Medicine

The idea that humans could regrow tissue, cells or even organs may sound like science fiction. But when OMRF's Dr. Courtney Griffin took the helm of the Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research (a program of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust) in 2018, she expanded the Center's focus to include regenerative medicine. The emerging field holds promise for restoring damaged tissues and organs in the body by stimulating previously irreparable organs to heal themselves.

Rural Health

Increasingly, rural America is beginning to look like a "health desert," with fewer and fewer hospitals and care providers to serve patients. Add in an aging and socioeconomically challenged population, and healthcare outside of urban areas has reached a state of crisis. This past summer, Dr. Judith James renewed a major federal grant aimed at tackling parts of this problem in Oklahoma. Working with a network of institutions, physicians and American Indian tribes throughout the state, the effort is targeting a host of rural health issues, from cardiovascular disease to the opioid epidemic.

3. An initial round of clinical testing found the drug to be safe and well tolerated by patients. Then, in a larger, multi-center trial in the U.S., Jamaica and Brazil, the medication showed a marked reduction in pain crises suffered by those with the genetic disease, which disproportionately strikes individuals of African origin.

S



The Cross family's steer wrestling competition shows how Oklahomans can band together to help combat disease," says OMRF Vice President of Development Penny Voss. "It's a real grassroots effort that unites the Kingfisher community."



Smile

Actually, it's SMILE. That stands for "Studying Anti-Malarials in Incomplete Lupus Erythematosus," and it's the first clinical trial of its kind. Led by Dr. Judith James, SMILE seeks to identify people at high risk for developing lupus, then treat them with an immune-modifying medication. The trial kicked off in 2018, and its ultimate goals are ambitious: to delay the onset of lupus, lessen its symptoms and potentially prevent the disease altogether.

Steer Wrestling

Floyd Cross died in 2016, succumbing to liver and colon cancers after living with the diseases for a dozen years. But the western Oklahoma bulldogger's legacy lives on in the annual steer wrestling tournament his family continues to stage in Kingfisher each May. In 2018, the 8th edition of the rodeo drew cowboys from around the country. As in previous years, proceeds benefitted cancer research at OMRF.



Thanksgiving

In November 2015, doctors told Mike Schuster he had glioblastoma, a deadly form of brain cancer that carries a life expectancy of 12 to 18 months from diagnosis. This past Thanksgiving, Schuster celebrated the third anniversary of that diagnosis. The 53-year-old Norman resident remains strong and healthy, which he attributes to his ongoing treatment with OKN-007, an experimental therapy invented at OMRF. "It's pretty cool how this stuff is working."

Top Workplace

Based on anonymous polling of 24,000 employees at more than 100 state businesses, OMRF earned the silver medal among large employers (350-plus workers) in *The Oklahoman* newspaper's 2018 Top Workplaces survey.⁴ Employees answered questions about a variety of factors related to their jobs, including pay and benefits, job satisfaction, room for growth and management quality. In their responses, foundation staffers cited OMRF's onsite fitness center and healthy dining options offered in the Research Cafe. "These extra incentives," commented one employee in a survey response, "make this workplace stand out from the rest!"

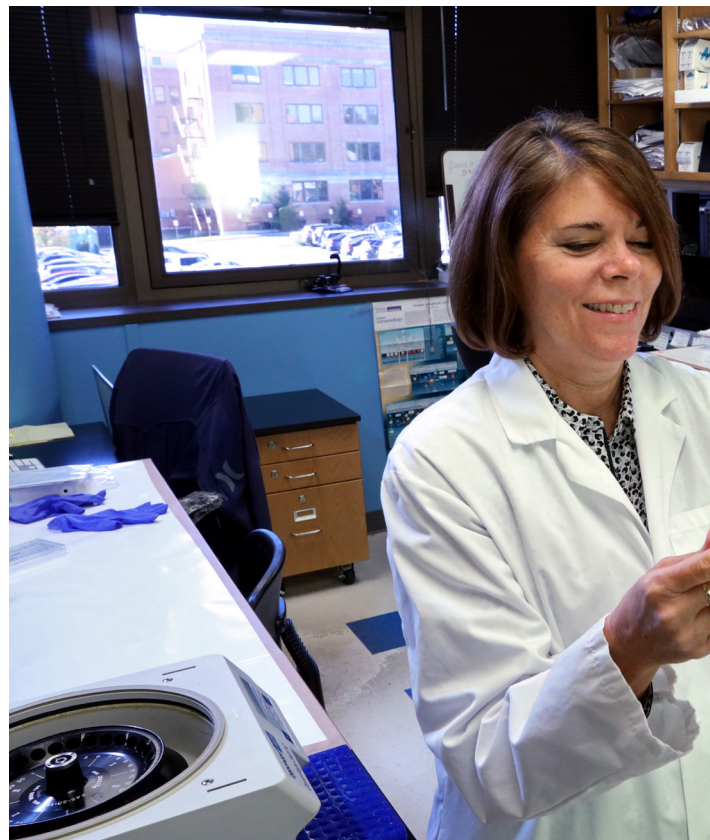
Tylenol Overdose

Each year, 56,000 people go to ERs because they've taken too much acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol. Some overdose under the mistaken impression that excess amounts of an over-the-counter painkiller can't hurt them. Others OD because acetaminophen is an ingredient in oft-abused opioids Percocet and Vicodin. Either way, the results can be life-threatening: Too much acetaminophen can cause severe liver toxicity, and it's the leading cause of liver transplants in the U.S. In June, OMRF's Dr. Courtney Griffin and graduate student Siqi Gao published new findings pinpointing the cause of liver bleeding during acetaminophen overdose. In experiments in laboratory mice, the researchers also found a way to treat the animals using an existing prescription drug. The therapeutic impact could be lifesaving, says Griffin, especially because the FDA has already approved the medication to treat another condition. "We are excited to see where the next stage of this research takes us."

4. OMRF has ranked in the top 10 in the large employer category every year since *The Oklahoman* began compiling the list in 2013.



"We've been blessed; our scientists are so good in their fields," says Jannie Jefferies, who's worked at OMRF since 1990 as a file coordinator in accounting, records and payroll. "I'm just a little part of what goes on here, but they share their time with me."





Understanding Diabetes

Diabetics are more than twice as likely as the general population to die of heart disease and stroke. In a new study that appeared in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, OMRF researchers identified a crucial cellular “switch” in the heart that seems to malfunction in people suffering from diabetes. “If we can activate or help this broken switch, we could potentially reduce the likelihood of developing life-threatening heart conditions,” says Dr. Kenneth Humphries, who led the project.



Viral Sensation

Children in their first year of life are highly susceptible to respiratory syncytial virus, the leading cause of pneumonia worldwide. “RSV causes more frequent and more severe infections in infants, and it can require hospitalization in some cases,” says OMRF’s Dr. Susan Kovats. To study the illness, she’s using a novel three-dimensional model developed by Dr. Heather Fahlenkamp, an Oklahoma State University chemical engineer. It’s made of human tissue, and it’s designed to mimic how our lungs work. In addition to safety advantages over working with human subjects, says Kovats, “this gives us a lot more control to learn exactly what goes wrong and how to go about fixing it.” If the 3D model proves successful, the researchers will look to expand its use in other lung ailments like the flu and allergies.





“We are motivated to be part of the solution.”

Marked by vision loss, pain and loss of coordination and muscle control, neuromyelitis optica is often confused for multiple sclerosis. But one of the standard treatments for MS – increasing levels of a naturally occurring protein called interferon – actually makes symptoms of NMO worse. With a new grant from the National Institutes of Health, OMRF’s Dr. Bob Axtell will try to unravel this conundrum surrounding the rare condition. “People are becoming more aware of the disease and are working on better diagnostic tools to identify it,” says Axtell, who joined OMRF in 2013 from Stanford University. “The more we understand, the better the outlook will be for people struggling with this horrible condition.”

Oklahoma City's Shan Carter has been living with neuromyelitis optica for two decades and has been a patient at OMRF since 2011. "I first noticed something was wrong when I picked up my little nephew and just fell over. I'd just finished playing three soccer games in a row," says Carter, 52. "Now, I spend my days in this chair."



Why?

The question OMRF researchers asked an estimated 938,600^{5, 6, 7} times in 2018.



Xander Auld

For the Winter/Spring 2018 issue of *Findings*, we chronicled how OMRF's Dr. Patrick Gaffney helped sleuth out a rare genetic mutation carried by Xander Auld, a Yukon teen. That discovery led doctors to find and remove a potentially deadly kidney cancer.

Xia, Lijun

The head of OMRF's Cardiovascular Biology Research Program also played medical detective, solving a mystery involving an Oklahoma girl with abnormal levels of blood enzymes and bone defects. You'll have an opportunity to read more about Dr. Lijun Xia's work to help this young patient in the upcoming issue of *Findings*.

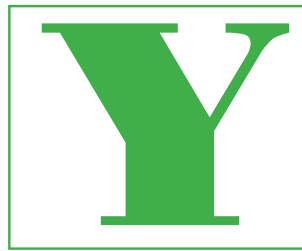
Xmas

In the December 25, 2018, edition of *The Oklahoman*, Dr. Patrick Gaffney talked about how he balances his research at OMRF with his religious beliefs. "If you have a faith in God and his role in creation and sustaining creation, science becomes more of an activity of trying to unravel the secrets of how he designed things." The OMRF researcher is currently in formation to become a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

5. Total whys⁶ = total scientific staff members x annual hours worked per staffer x average number of whys per staffer per hour

6. = 361 x 2,080 x 1.25⁷ = 938,600. Next year, we're going for a million.

7. Just a guess



You

If you received this annual report, you're one of 4,213 donors to OMRF in 2018. Our scientists and physicians couldn't do what they do without your support. Thank you!



Zeal for Research

Ovarian cancer. Heart disease. Inflammation. Parkinson's disease. In the past year, the Presbyterian Health Foundation made grants to OMRF to support research projects on all of these health conditions – plus many more. All told, the Oklahoma City nonprofit provided nearly \$2 million to help underwrite the cost of research at OMRF in 2018. "As funding streams continue to tighten, we are even more committed to filling funding gaps facing Oklahoma's top biomedical researchers today," says PHF President Tom R. Gray III.

Zebrafish

If you didn't know better, you might confuse the fish-tank-filled room on OMRF's fourth floor for an aquarium. Or a pet store. But the foundation's 10,000 or so zebrafish are not pets. The tiny creatures allow scientists to study biological processes in ways that are impossible in humans. A trio of OMRF scientists rely on the fish to model human disease, and in 2018, one of them, Dr. Gaurav Varshney, received funding to use zebrafish to understand the pathology and mechanisms of hearing loss.

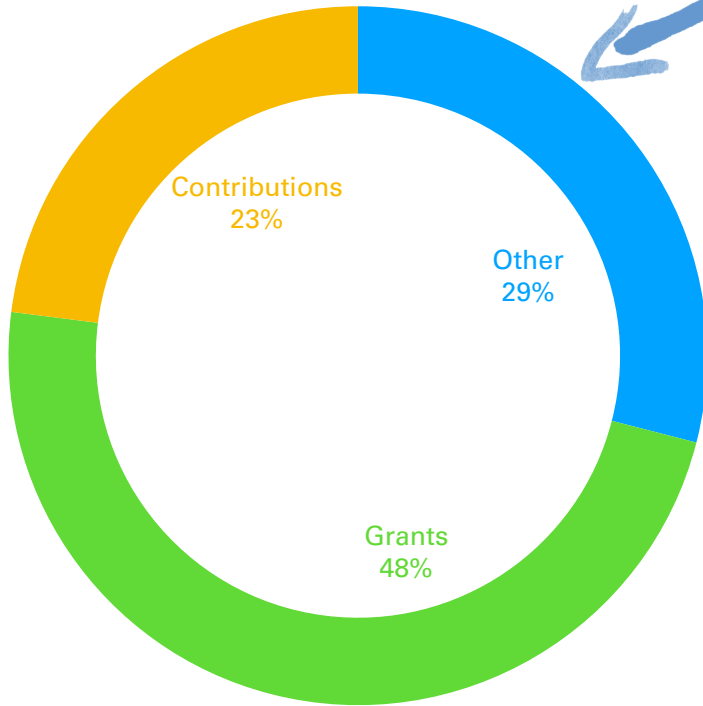


Zero

Number of days in 2018 when scientists weren't in OMRF's labs performing experiments.



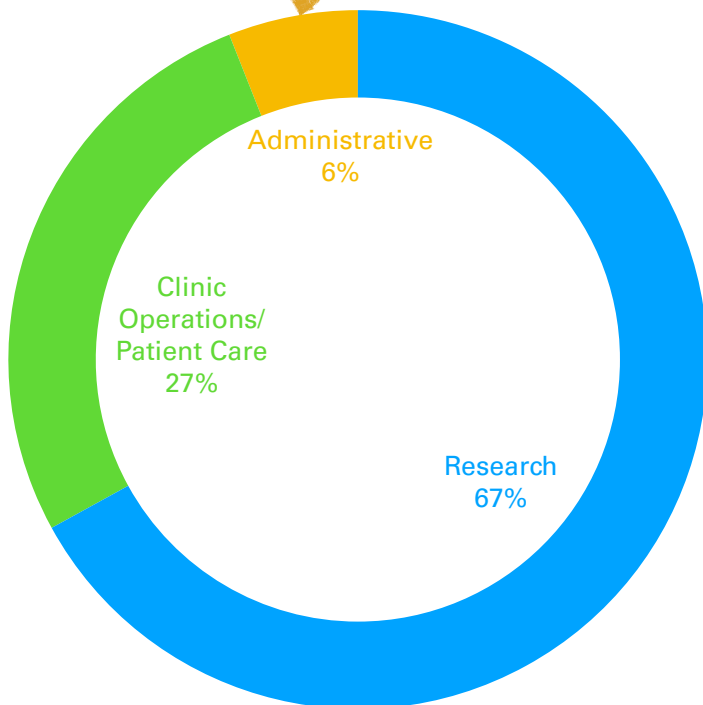
Revenues



Added Revenue Sources

While gifts and competitive research grants provide 71 percent of OMRF's annual revenues, we count on supplementary funding streams to provide the additional \$25 million-plus needed to operate OMRF each year. Those other dollars come from a variety of sources: income from our clinic, royalty payments from licensing of intellectual property, and even mineral revenues from estate gifts we've received over the years. Having a balance of revenue streams is one of many factors that keeps the foundation financially secure.

Expenses



Keeping Costs Low

When it comes to administration, less is more. For decades, OMRF's administrative costs have held steady in single digits. And in 2018, that number fell from 8 to 6 percent, all while our operating revenue increased nearly \$20 million. But it's OMRF's tradition to deliver administrative support in the most cost-efficient manner possible. That means more money for research.



Financials

OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION Selected Financial Information - Operating Fund		
	2017-2018	Prior year
OPERATING REVENUE:		
Competitive research grants:		
National Institutes of Health grants	\$ 32,319,603	\$ 28,911,625
Other competitive research grants	<u>11,350,300</u>	<u>9,504,511</u>
Total grants	<u>43,669,903</u>	<u>38,416,136</u>
Private contributions:		
Income and gifts from trusts	7,545,524	7,538,361
Gifts and bequests	157,605	1,789,311
Contributions	2,493,424	2,131,621
Memorials	<u>611,831</u>	<u>689,736</u>
Total private contributions	<u>10,808,384</u>	<u>12,149,029</u>
Special event revenue:		
Ticket sales and sponsorships	708,204	584,996
Less: direct costs of event	<u>(121,171)</u>	<u>(130,915)</u>
Net revenues from special events	<u>587,033</u>	<u>454,081</u>
Other revenue:		
Clinical revenue, net of provisions for contractual and other adjustments	19,970,530	9,992,552
Interest and investment income	806,595	837,182
Mineral income	1,305,293	1,538,463
Rent	363,468	382,390
Royalties and licensing income	1,434,726	1,277,966
Loss on disposal of assets	193,295	289,941
Loss from uncollected receivables	(1,500)	-
Other	<u>2,578,669</u>	<u>2,238,155</u>
Total other revenue	<u>26,651,076</u>	<u>16,556,649</u>
Total revenue	81,716,396	67,575,895
Operating revenue from wills, pledges, and other restricted gifts recorded in prior years	<u>10,008,305</u>	<u>6,263,206</u>
Total operating revenue	<u>91,724,701</u>	<u>73,839,101</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Program Services - Research	53,628,852	48,147,998
Program Services - Clinic Operations	21,697,357	13,139,237
Support Services - General and administrative	<u>5,296,801</u>	<u>5,058,758</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>80,623,010</u>	<u>66,345,993</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 11,101,691</u>	<u>\$ 7,493,108</u>

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Since OMRF Director Dr. John Saxon established the Saxon Scholar Program at OMRF in 2009, it's trained dozens of students from the U.S. Naval, Air Force and Military Academies. "I thought that I could use OMRF's work as an opportunity to stimulate some basic bench science interest with cadets," Saxon says.



Formed in 2015, the OMRF Ambassadors host events like this “Science Lounge” to help raise awareness of OMRF among Oklahoma’s young professionals and emerging leaders.

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National Advisory Council members Ronnie Rosenfeld and Cathy Keating use a special mouthwash to gather DNA samples from the inside of their cheeks, part of an “Executive Medical School” class that taught members of this board of advocates about genetics research at OMRF.

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