



## **2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

The American Hearing Research Foundation (AHRF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to funding research on hearing loss and balance disorders related to the inner ear. The year 2018 marks the 62<sup>nd</sup> year in which AHRF has supported research that examines how we hear, why we lose hearing, and how it might be restored. Since its founding in 1956, AHRF has been awarding grants to beginning investigators so they can test ideas and collect data to secure larger funding.

AHRF's other focus is to educate the public about hearing and balance disorders, through its website and bi-annual newsletter. The website contains numerous articles on hearing and balance disorders as well as links to outside resources, and updates on the progress of our funded research projects.

Each year AHRF funds five to 10 research projects, with grants of \$20,000 to \$40,000 per study. In addition, the Foundation awards up to five \$1,000 grants to otolaryngology residents.

### **2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

AHRF's educational reach expanded in several ways in 2018. The organization leveraged its longstanding emphasis on Meniere's disease research by creating a 5-minute informational video on Meniere's disease for PBS stations. In its first three months (during the data tracking period), the video aired on 132 stations and reached an estimated 4,107,00 viewers nationwide. It aired 787 times, with 337 in prime time. A captioned version of the video was posted to the AHRF YouTube channel, and has had 6,800 views in the 9-month period since it was posted.

Part of education is raising awareness, and AHRF was delighted to be selected as a designated charity for the 2018 NFL "MyCauseMyCleats" initiative. Tampa Bay Buccaneers play Mike Liedtke highlighted Meniere's disease research and the American Hearing Research Foundation with his cleats on December 2, 2018.

In 2018, AHRF went live with its new mobile-friendly website, making its hearing and balance disorder topical articles accessible to a much broader audience.

True to its mission, in 2018 AHRF awarded ten grants totaling \$195,050 for the research studies listed in the following table.

<b>Researcher</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Study Title</b>
Jessy Alexander, PhD	State University of New York at Buffalo	<i>Complement, Hearing Loss and Lupus</i>
Karl Doerfer, MD; Christina Runge, PhD	Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals, Milwaukee	<i>Development of In-House Genetic Screening for Pediatric Hearing Loss</i>
Michael M. Ebeid, MBBCh, PhD	University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha	<i>High-throughput Drug Discovery for Prevention of Noise-induced Hair Cell Loss</i>
Anna Lysakowski, PhD	University of Illinois at Chicago	<i>Understanding Genetic Heterogeneity in Familial Meniere's Disease</i>
David C. Martinelli, PhD	Oregon Health and Science University, Portland	<i>Determination of the Auditory Function of the Outer Hair Cell Afferent Synapses in the Mammalian Cochlea</i>
Tobias Overath, PhD; Josh Stohl, PhD; Leslie M. Collins, PhD; Michael Murias, PhD	Duke University, Durham, North Carolina	<i>Optimizing Cochlear Implant Sound Processor Configurations via Neural Response Properties to Improve Speech Comprehension</i>
Enrique Perez, MD, MBA	University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Florida	<i>High-resolution Contrast-enhanced Microendoscopy in Cholesteatoma Surgery: Safety, Efficacy and Feasibility</i>
Isabelle Schrauwen	Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas	<i>Identification of Genes for Non-syndromic Rare Congenital Inner Ear Malformations in Children</i>
Erika Skoe, PhD; Jennifer Tufts, PhD	University of Connecticut	<i>Biological Indices of Noise Exposure in the Clinically-normal Ear</i>
Spencer B. Smith, PhD, AuD	Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois	<i>Investigating the Relationship between Binaural Hearing and Speech-in-Noise Performance in Middle-Aged Listeners</i>

## **FUNDING SOURCES**

The American Hearing Research Foundation funds its activities through these sources: voluntary donations from individuals, employee giving programs, returns on investments, and the merchant donor programs Amazon Smile and iGive. In addition, the Foundation partners with **run because**, a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funding for Meniere's disease research.

Voluntary individual donations are from the public and are solicited through our newsletter, Facebook postings, emails for #GivingTuesday, and an end-of-year appeal mailing.

Contributions are used for the AHRF mission to fund research and to educate the public about hearing and balance disorders. These monies cover the cost of research grants, plus costs associated with the development, production, distribution, and maintenance of our website and newsletters. Contributions also support administrative functions essential to operate the Foundation, including the cost of technology, audit, and database management; and fundraising activities needed to support our work.

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## AMERICAN HEARING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2017	2016
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Contributions	\$455,240	\$460,841
Other income	\$11,989	\$19,519
Investment income	\$181,522	\$172,364
Realized investment gains/(losses)	\$57,928	\$5,074
Unrealized investment gains (losses)	\$919,475	\$384,380
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ -	-
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$1,626,154</b>	<b>\$1,042,178</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program services	\$246,610	\$263,096
Management & general	\$41,760	\$43,459
Fundraising	\$13,445	\$7,576
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$301,814</b>	<b>\$314,132</b>
<b>Change in net assests</b>	<b>\$1,324,339</b>	<b>\$728,046</b>

Net assets, beginning of year	\$7,325,554	\$6,597,508
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$8,649,893</b>	<b>\$7,325,554</b>

<b>CONDENSED STMT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</b>	<b>As of 12/31/2017</b>	<b>As of 12/31/2016</b>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$287,801	\$183,091
Other receivables	\$19,738	\$18,095
Prepaid expenses	\$24,888	\$10,053
Investments, at fair market value	\$8,522,091	\$7,324,320
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$8,854,518</b>	<b>\$7,535,559</b>
<b><u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u></b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$9,575	\$9,005
Deferred income	\$ -	-
Grants payable	\$195,050	\$201,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$204,624</b>	<b>\$210,005</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$204,624</b>	<b>\$210,005</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	\$8,634,961	\$7,318,635
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$14,933	\$6,919
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$8,649,893</b>	<b>\$7,325,554</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$8,854,518</b>	<b>\$7,535,559</b>