



2019 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 2019 marks the 63rd 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.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Each year AHRF funds five to 10 research projects. Starting in 2019, the Foundation was excited to **increase its maximum award to \$50,000**. In January, **seven grants of \$20,000 to \$50,000 were awarded, plus three grants of approximately \$1,000 each for otolaryngology residents** – for a total of over \$250,000. Recipients will explore diverse topics, including ways to deliver hearing-protective drugs to those receiving cancer treatments, gene therapy approaches for inherited hearing loss, sound processing problems associated with autism, and how noise exposure causes changes in a specific region of the brain. Researchers and study topics are listed on the next page.

One AHRF grant was issued in **partnership with the American Cochlear Implant (ACI) Alliance**. A one-time co-funded grant of \$25,000 was awarded for a planning study that will evaluate the lifetime cost and burden of severe to profound hearing loss. The project's principal investigator, Alexandria Quittner, PhD (Nicklaus Children's Research Institute), explained, "If deafness exists before a child acquires speech and language (typically age 3), the lifetime costs to society exceed \$1 million per child, according to the Mohr (2000) study. The goal of this multi-disciplinary project is to replicate this study, and extend it by following children with cochlear implants for 13 to 15 years."

The Foundation also pursued its mission to educate the public. AHRF co-sponsored a free public event with the ARO (association for Research in Otolaryngology), **bringing WNBA legend and Olympian Tamika Catchings to Baltimore to discuss communication issues for athletes with hearing loss**. Hearing and balance disease information was added to the AHRF website. The video about Meniere's disease – created in 2018 - continues to provide accessible information on AHRF's YouTube channel.

2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS		
Researcher	University	Study Title
Christopher G. Clinard, PhD, CCC-A Erin G. Piker, AuD, PhD, CCC-A	James Madison University, VA	<i>A more sensitive measure of age-related changes in the vestibular system: Vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (VEMPs) elicited by amplitude-modulated tones</i>
Erin R. Cohen, MD	University of Miami Miller School of Medicine	<i>Radiation Toxicity and Biology in Merlin-Deficient and Normal Schwann Cells in Vitro</i>
Nathan R. Lindquist, MD	Baylor College of Medicine, TX	<i>“Evaluation of cognitive function in hearing loss patients utilizing the BrainCheck™ computerized assessment tool</i>
Elise Lippmann, MD	University of Illinois at Chicago	<i>Validating the use of a non-linguistic test across a broad clinical population</i>
Alexandra L. Quittner, PhD; Ivette Cejas, PhD; Laurie Eisenberg, PhD	Nicklaus Children’s Research Inst., FL	<i>Reductions in Societal Costs and Burden for those with Severe to Profound Hearing Loss: Impact of Pediatric Cochlear Implantation</i>
Tessa-Jonne F. Ropp PhD	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	<i>Exploring Deficits in the Auditory Cortex Associated with Autism</i>
Xiaodong Tan, PhD	Northwestern University	<i>Protective Effect of Honokiol in Noise-Induced Hearing Loss</i>
L Hoffman, PhD; A Kita, MD; J Saldate, PhD	Regents of the University of California (UCLA)	<i>Designing a drug-eluting scaffold for othotherapeutics</i>
Marina Augusto Silveira, PhD	University of Michigan	<i>Neuropeptide Y as a Neuro-modulator of Noise-Induced Hyper-excitability in the Inferior Colliculus</i>
Christopher G. Clinard, PhD, CCC-A Erin G. Piker, AuD, PhD, CCC-A	James Madison University, VA	<i>A more sensitive measure of age-related changes in the vestibular system: Vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (VEMPs) elicited by amplitude-modulated tones</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 AHRF’s 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

2018

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Revenues and Other Support

Contributions	\$455,240	\$54,867
Interest and dividends	\$181,522	\$175,421
Other income	\$11,989	\$15,634
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ -	-

Total Support	\$648,751	\$245,922
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Expenses

Program services	\$246,610	\$276,490
Supporting services		
Management & general	\$41,760	\$77,922
Fundraising	\$13,445	\$1,095

Total Expenses	\$301,815	\$355,507
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Change in net assets from operations	\$346,936	(\$109,585)
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NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES**Investment return, net**

Realized gains (losses)	\$57,929	\$-
Unrealized gains (losses)	\$919,475	(\$533,628)
Total Investment return, net	\$977,404	(\$533,628)
Total nonoperating activities	\$977,404	(\$533,628)
Change in net assets	\$1,324,340	(\$643,213)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$7,325,554	\$8,649,894
Net Assets, end of year	\$8,649,894	\$8,006,681

CONDENSED STMT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of 12/31/2017 **As of
12/31/2018**

Assets**Current Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$287,801	\$116,936
Investments, at fair market value	\$8,522,091	\$8,091,693
Accrued interest on investments	\$19,738	\$19,997
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$24,888	\$27,030

Fixed Assets

\$0 \$18,981

Total Assets

\$8,854,518 \$8,274,637

Liabilities and Net Assets**Current Liabilities**

Accounts payable	\$9,575	\$2,556
Grants payable	\$195,050	\$265,400

Total Current Liabilities

\$204,624 \$267,956

Total Liabilities

\$204,624 \$267,956

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$8,634,961	\$7,986,969
With donor restrictions	\$14,933	\$19,712

Total Net Assets

\$8,649,893 \$8,006,681

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

\$8,854,518 \$8,274,637