



## 2020 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 2020 marks the 64th 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.

### 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Each year AHRF funds five to 10 research projects. In January, **eight grants of \$20,000 to \$45,000 were awarded, plus four grants of \$1,000 each for otolaryngology residents** – for a total of over \$288,000. Recipients will explore diverse topics, including drugs that one day may offer protection from noise, or treat conditions such as Usher Syndrome; Meniere's disease pathology; Meniere's disease treatment; noise-induced cellular damage of the auditory pathway; and the link between hearing and cardiovascular disease. Researchers and study topics are listed on the next page.

In 2020, four otolaryngology residents received a Bernard & Lottie Drazin Resident Grant. AHRF offers this grant program to encourage individuals who might pursue a career in hearing and balance research.

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). "Musae on the Brain: Women in Voice and Science" included a performance by Musae, San Francisco's premier women's choral ensemble, interspersed with talks about how the ear and mind process pitch and harmony by Dana Boebinger, neuroscientist from Harvard, and Sarah Schneider, speech-language pathologist from UCSF.

2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS		
Researcher	University	Study Title
Rachael R. Baiduc, PhD, MPH; Melinda Anderson, PhD, CCC-A	University of Colorado Boulder	<i>Sex Differences in the Association between Hearing Loss and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Burden</i>
Monita Chatterjee, PhD	Boys Town National Research Hospital	<i>Age-Related Changes in the Perception of Emotional Speech with Cochlear Implants</i>
Allison B. Coffin, PhD	Washington State University	<i>AMPA receptor-mediated glutamate excitotoxicity and noise-induced synaptic damage</i>
Michael Ghiam, MD	University of Miami Miller School of Medicine	<i>Utility of Perilymph microRNA Sampling for Identification of Active Gene Expression Pathways in Sensorineural Hearing Loss</i>
Stefania Goncalves, MD	University of Miami Miller School of Medicine	<i>Laminin-coated Cochlear Implant Electrodes can Promote Schwann Cell Dedifferentiation, Migration and Guide Neural Axon Growth In Vitro</i>
Cody Jeu, MD	University of Illinois at Chicago	<i>A cochlear implant simulation study to determine the effects of transposing frequencies on binaural benefits</i>
Benjamin Johnson, MD	University Hospitals Cleveland/Case Western School of Medicine	<i>Antimalarial Artesunate as a Novel Treatment to Mitigate Hearing Loss Associated with Usher Syndrome Type IIIA</i>
Matthew T. Maksimoski, MD	Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	<i>Long term outcomes from gamma knife treatment for vestibulocochlear nerve schwannomas in a large, tertiary care, academic hospital</i>
Dhasakumar S. Navaratnam, MD, PhD	Yale University	<i>Defining the molecular and cellular basis of Meniere's disease using single cell RNA sequencing</i>
Habib G. Rizk, MD	Medical University of South Carolina	<i>Assessing the Efficacy of a Serotonin and Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor for Improving Meniere's Disease Outcomes</i>
Tal Teitz, PhD	Creighton University	<i>Repurposing an FDA Approved Drug Dabrafenib for Protection from Noise-induced Hearing Loss</i>
Jing Zheng, PhD	Northwestern University	<i>Investigating functions of a cilium protein in vestibular system</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

2018

2019

#### OPERATING ACTIVITIES

##### Revenues and Other Support

Contributions	\$54,867	928,657
Interest and dividends	\$175,421	205,503
Other income	\$15,634	0
Net assets released from restrictions		

<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$245,922</b>	<b>1,134,160</b>
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##### Expenses

Program services	\$276,490	\$337,612
Supporting services		
Management & general	\$77,922	\$57,023
Fundraising	\$1,095	\$10,713

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$355,507</b>	<b>\$405,348</b>
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<b>Change in net assets from operations</b>	<b>(\$109,585)</b>	<b>\$728,812</b>
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**NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES****Investment return, net**

Realized gains (losses)	\$-	\$21,366
Unrealized gains (losses)	(\$533,628)	\$1,669,778
Total Investment return, net	(\$533,628)	\$1,691,144
<b>Total nonoperating activities</b>	(\$533,628)	\$1,691,144
<b>Change in net assets</b>	(\$643,213)	\$2,419,956
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	\$8,649,894	\$8,006,681
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	\$8,006,681	\$10,426,637

**CONDENSED STMT OF FINANCIAL POSITION****As of 12/31/2018**    **As of 12/31/2019****Assets****Current Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$116,936	\$124,671
Investments, at fair market value	\$8,091,693	\$10,550,305
Accrued interest on investments	\$19,997	\$17,594
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$27,030	\$7,524

**Fixed Assets**

\$18,981	\$19,610
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**Total Assets**

\$8,274,637	10,719,704
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**Liabilities and Net Assets****Current Liabilities**

Accounts payable	\$2,556	\$4,749
Grants payable	\$265,400	\$288,318
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	\$267,956	\$293,067

**Total Liabilities**

\$267,956	\$293,067
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**Net Assets**

Without donor restrictions	\$7,986,969	\$10,368,164
With donor restrictions	\$19,712	\$58,473

**Total Net Assets**

\$8,006,681	\$10,426,637
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**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**

\$8,274,637	\$10,719,704
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