



2021 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 2021 marks the 65th 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.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Each year AHRF funds five to 10 research projects. In 2021, seven grants were awarded, for a total funding of \$301,000. AHRF awarded the \$75,000 Birtman Grant for exceptional scientific investigation for the first time in 17 years. In addition, AHRF awarded five Regular Grants of \$37,000 to \$50,000. One otolaryngology resident received the \$1,000 Bernard & Lottie Drazin Resident Grant. AHRF offers the resident grant program to encourage individuals who might pursue a career in hearing and balance research.

Recipients will explore diverse topics, including the mechanics that help middle-aged listeners understand speech in noise compared to accented speech, the therapeutic effect of combining hypothermia with medication to treat noise-induced hearing loss, inflammation's effect in the inner ear, the role of specific inner ear cells with Meniere's disease, and an online protocol to understand cochlear implant users' everyday experience with speech recognition. Researchers and study topics are listed on the next page.

In planning for 2022, AHRF has decided that it will streamline its grant offerings, allowing all applicants to apply for up to \$50,000 for hearing and balance research. This \$50,000 grant is being renamed as the AHRF Discovery Grant. AHRF expects to award five to six such grants in 2022.

This change increases AHRF grant awards for two specific areas of interest – sudden hearing loss causes, and Meniere's disease. These topics were funded in prior years at \$40,000 and \$25,000, respectively. Supported in part by donor contributions, these two areas of study will continue to receive special consideration in the review process.

In addition, one outstanding proposal will be eligible for the \$75,000 Birtman Award.

2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS		
Researcher	University	Study Title
Jennifer Krizman, PhD	Northwestern University	<i>Identifying the auditory mechanisms supporting speech-in-noise and accented-speech recognition in middle-aged listeners with and without sensorineural hearing loss</i>
Kathleen T. Yee, PhD	University of Mississippi Medical Center	<i>Effects of mild traumatic brain injury on the mammalian cochlea</i>
Suhrud Rajguru, PhD	University of Miami	<i>Combinatorial therapy for preventing noise-induced cochlear synaptopathy and hearing loss</i>
Dwayne Simmons, PhD; Major Mostafa Ahmed MD, Prof. Bob Kane, PhD	Baylor University	<i>Mitigating Noise-Induced Inflammatory Responses in the Inner Ear</i>
Justine Renauld, PhD	Case Western Reserve University	<i>Understanding the role of pigmented cells in Meniere's disease</i>
Terrin Tamati, PhD	Ohio State University	<i>Investigating the Impact of Social Networks on Speech Recognition Outcomes and Quality of Life in Adults with Cochlear Implants – A Study Using an Online Testing Protocol</i>
Christopher Mularczyk, MD	University of Illinois at Chicago	<i>Temporal and Spectral Manipulation and Vocal Pitch Perception in Cochlear Implant Users</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

2019

2020

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Revenues and Other Support

Contributions	\$928,657	\$132,338
Interest and dividends	\$205,503	\$211,644
Other income	\$0	\$0
Net assets released from restrictions		

Total Support	\$1,134,160	\$343,982
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Expenses

Program services	\$337,612	\$336,857
Supporting services		
Management & general	\$57,023	\$51,554
Fundraising	\$10,713	\$8,223

Total Expenses	\$405,348	\$396,634
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Change in net assets from operations	\$728,812	-\$52,652
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NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES**Investment return, net**

Realized gains (losses)	\$21,366	\$28,718
Unrealized gains (losses)	\$1,669,778	\$1,464,848
Total Investment return, net	\$1,691,144	\$1,493,566
Total nonoperating activities	\$1,691,144	\$1,493,566
Change in net assets	\$2,419,956	\$1,440,914
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$8,006,681	\$10,426,637
Net Assets, end of year	\$10,426,637	\$11,867,551

CONDENSED STMT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**As of 12/31/2019****As of
12/31/2020****Assets****Current Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$124,671	\$220,151
Investments, at fair market value	\$10,550,305	\$11,931,832
Accrued interest on investments	\$17,594	\$15,109
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$7,524	\$8,195

Fixed Assets

	\$19,610	\$14,708
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Total Assets

	\$10,719,704	\$12,189,995
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Liabilities and Net Assets**Current Liabilities**

Accounts payable	\$4,749	\$0
Grants payable	\$288,318	\$322,444
Total Current Liabilities	\$293,067	\$322,444

Total Liabilities

	\$293,067	\$322,444
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Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$10,368,164	\$11,780,996
With donor restrictions	\$58,473	\$86,555

Total Net Assets

	\$10,426,637	\$11,867,551
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets

	\$10,719,704	\$12,189,995
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