



2023 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 2023 marks the 67th 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.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Each year AHRF awards five to 10 investigative seed grants; these topics are building blocks to understanding how we hear and how we lose hearing and balance function. In 2023, eight (8) grants were awarded, for a total funding of \$341,718. Six investigators received \$50,000 Discovery Grants. AHRF felt two of the proposals showed exceptional scientific promise; AHRF awarded these investigators additional funding to pursue expanded goals - through the Birtman Grant (\$72,464 in total) and Muench Chairman Grant (\$62,970 in total). Two otolaryngology residents received \$1,000 Bernard & Lottie Drazin Resident Grants. 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 a new way to map how information travels via nerve signals from parts of the ear to the brain and vice versa, a new therapy for age-related hearing loss, two proteins specifically implicated in hearing loss, and how different areas of the brain work together to help us understand speech in a crowded setting. Researchers and study topics are listed on the next page.

This year, 2023, marks the first time AHRF awarded the Richard G. Muench Chairman's Grant. This grant recognizes Richard Muench, who retired from the role of Board Chair after 27 years in 2022. He continues to serve on the Board to promote the careers of young investigators.

AHRF grant awards for two specific areas of interest – sudden hearing loss causes and Meniere's disease, have been folded into the Discovery Grant and receive special consideration in the review process. Based on patient needs, AHRF believes these areas deserve greater study, and the organization is working to promote such investigation.

2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS		
Researcher	University	Study Title
Lendra Friesen, PhD, CCC-A	University of Connecticut	<i>Georgia Birtman Grant: Development of information-theoretic approach for the analysis of auditory evoked potentials: quantifying the effects of age, disease, and congenital conditions at the midbrain and cortex</i>
Parveen Bazard, PhD	University of South Florida	<i>Muench Chairman Grant: Developing Novel Therapeutic Interventions for Age-related Hearing Loss</i>
Nurunisa Akyuz, PhD	Harvard Medical School	<i>Discovery Grant: A Structural Basis for Calcium Regulation of TMC1 Gating</i>
Anoop Basavanahalli Jagadeesh, PhD	Northwestern University	<i>Discovery Grant: Neural basis of music perception in individuals with hearing loss</i>
Colin Johnson, PhD	Oregon State University	<i>Discovery Grant: Characterization of the deafness-associated hair cell protein otoferlin</i>
Kamal Sen, PhD	Boston University	<i>Discovery Grant: Investigating Auditory Scene Analysis in Humans with Wearable fNIRS and EEG</i>
Melissa Ghulam-Smith, MD, PhD	University of Miami	<i>Resident Grant: Vestibular functional and histological changes in a blast induced-mTBI rat model</i>
Jordan J. Varghese, MD	Washington University in St. Louis	<i>Resident Grant: Transtympanic electrocochleography: Characterizing residual cochlear function in sudden sensorineural hearing loss to better predict outcomes</i>

FUNDING SOURCES

The American Hearing Research Foundation funds its activities through these sources: voluntary donations from individuals, employee giving programs, and returns on investments. In addition, the Foundation partners with **run because**, a grassroots nonprofit initiative 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		2021	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Revenues and Other Support			
	Contributions	\$190,881	\$87,438
	Interest and dividends	\$211,295	\$214,268
	Other income	\$0	\$0
	Net assets released from restrictions	\$0	\$0
	Total Support	\$402,176	\$301,706
Expenses			
	Program services	\$375,622	\$398,627
	Supporting services		
	Management & general	\$56,447	\$81,972
	Fundraising	\$11,147	\$8,997
	Total Expenses	\$443,216	\$489,596
	Change in net assets from operations	-\$41,040	-\$187,890
NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Investment return, net			
	Realized gains (losses)	\$3,865	-\$87,597
	Unrealized gains (losses)	\$2,311,774	-\$2,698,459
	Total Investment return, net	\$2,315,639	-\$2,786,056
	Total nonoperating activities	\$2,315,639	-\$2,786,056
	Change in net assets	\$2,274,599	-\$2,973,946
	Net Assets, beginning of year	\$11,867,551	\$14,142,150
	Net Assets, end of year	14,142,150	\$11,168,204
CONDENSED STMT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
		As of	As of
		12/31/2021	12/31/2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
	Cash and cash equivalents	\$263,260	\$130,441
	Investments, at fair market value	\$14,164,775	\$11,348,776
	Accrued interest on investments	\$13,176	\$15,440
	Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$9,042	\$9,964
	Fixed Assets	\$9,806	\$4,904
	Total Assets	14,460,059	\$11,509,525
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current Liabilities			
	Accounts payable	\$0	\$4,169
	Grants payable	\$317,909	\$337,152
	Total Current Liabilities	\$317,909	\$341,321

	Total Liabilities	\$317,909	\$341,321
	Net Assets		
	Without donor restrictions	\$13,938,216	\$10,946,831
	With donor restrictions	\$203,934	\$221,373
	Total Net Assets	\$14,142,150	\$11,168,204
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,460,059	\$11,509,525