

Research Facts 2015-16

Life is Why

Diseases of the heart are the No. 1 killer in America, and stroke is the No. 5 killer. The American Heart Association strongly believes that learning more about these diseases is the best way to improve cardiovascular health and reduce disability and death. Research is key to ensuring that future generations do not suffer from heart disease and stroke. That's why research is an association-wide priority.

A major weapon in our fight against these diseases

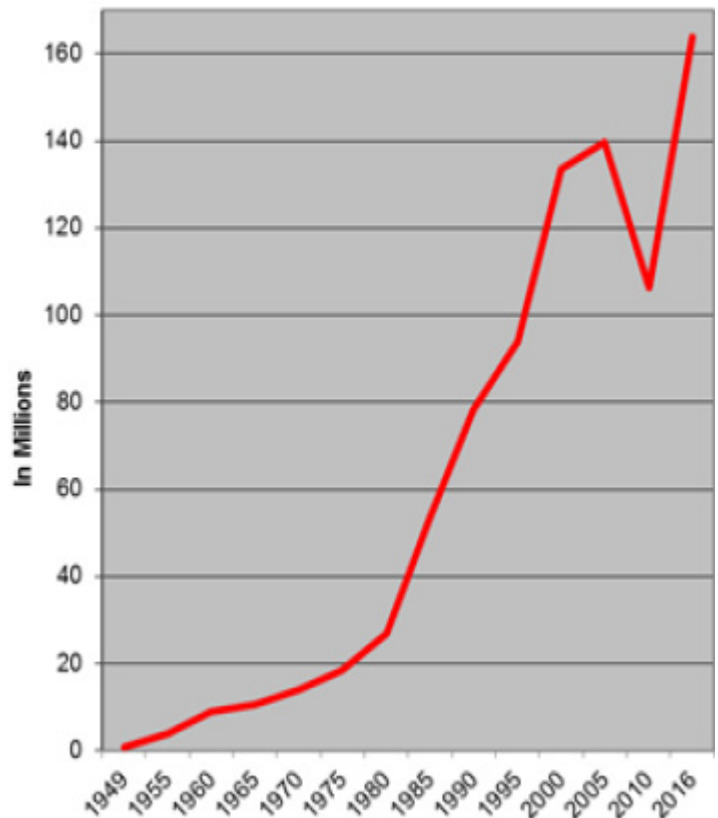
Since 1949, the American Heart Association has spent more than \$4 billion on research to increase our knowledge about cardiovascular diseases and stroke. In the 2015-16 fiscal year, we contributed more than \$163 million.

Our Commitment to Saving, Improving Lives

One of the American Heart Association's funding priorities is to support early career investigators to ensure a continuous supply of cardiovascular and stroke researchers. We're second only to the federal government in funding cardiovascular and stroke research. Yet, our efforts to fund all of the worthy research applications we receive fall short each year — forcing many promising young researchers into other careers. To avoid losing a generation of researchers, over 67 percent of our research awards this year were to early career investigators.

At least 28 cents of every publicly donated dollar to our seven affiliates is channeled into research. For each dollar, 13 cents supports the Association-wide Research Program, and at least 15 cents supports the affiliate research program.





American Heart Association Annual Research Expense: 1949-2015



More Support Can Save More Lives

Our research programs have contributed to many important scientific advances. Any healthcare provider who has ever provided CPR, pacemakers, drug-eluting stents, clot-busting medicines or cholesterol inhibitors to patients is already benefiting directly from the impact of AHA research funding. But we need more resources to fund even more potentially lifesaving discoveries, and to attract and encourage promising scientists to careers in cardiovascular and stroke research.

The Critical Research Funding Gap: Although we funded 980 new research awards in 2015-16, we did not have the additional \$116 million to cover 766 other highly-meritorious grant and fellowship applications. This means many scientific projects were shelved, and the knowledge that would result from them deferred.

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| <p>Portfolio</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop innovative research models that integrate AHA research values & fund highly meritorious or 'best' research • Fund both investigator-initiated & strategically-focused research • Support research in all areas of cardiovascular disease & stroke science that drive to AHA's mission & 2020 goals • Identify key questions that, if answered could provide extraordinary impact |
| <p>Investigator</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure funding mechanisms for investigators at all career stages & across disciplines • Provide programs that support the pursuit of the research in question and facilitate expansion of investigator skills • Focus on funding individuals & projects |
| <p>Accountability</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly define & report research outcomes • Assure that best practices are used for governance & operational guidelines • Assure that all stakeholders -- researchers, donors, lay volunteers -- are involved in research activities |
| <p>Optimization</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund transformational research providing return on investment • Expand collaborations |

| (in millions of dollars) | |
|--|----------------------|
| Founders Affiliate CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT | \$34,071,669 |
| Great Rivers Affiliate DE, KY, OH, PA, WV | \$19,850,583 |
| Greater Southeast Affiliate AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, PR, TN | \$17,333,326 |
| Mid-Atlantic Affiliate DC, MD, NC, SC, VA | \$19,620,587 |
| Midwest Affiliate IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD | \$22,937,550 |
| SouthWest Affiliate AZ, CO, NM, OK, TX, WY | \$19,233,230 |
| Western States Affiliate AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, NE, OR, UT, WA | \$30,839,868 |
| Total 2015 Awards | \$163,886,813 |

AHA Research Programs

| Award | Description |
|---|--|
| Bugher Foundation Stroke Center | Collaboration of basic, clinical and population researchers from different specialties whose collective efforts will lead to new approaches to prevent and treat stroke. |
| Collaborative Sciences Award | National program funds research goals that can only be achieved through innovative collaboration among disparate disciplines. |
| AHA Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine | AHA Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine Accelerates more precise scientific discoveries in cardiovascular diseases and stroke through patient engagement, integrated knowledge, data analysis, new grants and practical translation. |
| Established Investigator Award | Mid-term investigators with unusual promise, established record of accomplishments, and demonstrated commitment to cardiovascular or cerebrovascular science. |
| Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award | For beginning physician-scientists with outstanding potential for careers in cardiovascular and stroke research. |
| Grant-in-Aid | Innovative, highly meritorious cardiovascular and stroke research projects from independent investigators. |
| Innovative Research Grant | Highly innovative, high-risk, high-reward research that could ultimately lead to critical discoveries or major advancements to accelerate the field of cardiovascular and stroke research. |
| Mentor/AHA Mentee Award | Enables qualified mentors to support new research in areas by early-career scientists, with a special focus on underserved minorities. |
| Mentored Clinical & Population Research | Encourages early-career investigators to engage in high quality introductory and pilot clinical and population studies. |
| Merit Award | Highly promising investigators who have the potential to move a field of science forward with creative approaches. |
| Postdoctoral Fellowship | Provides training encourages the pursuit of research careers. |
| Predoctoral Fellowship | Helps students initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research. |
| Scientist Development Grant | Helps promising beginning scientists move from completion of research training to independent investigators. |
| Strategically Focused Research Network | Promotes multi-institutional, multidisciplinary collaboration directed toward a key strategic issue. |
| Undergraduate and Medical/ Graduate Student | Encourage promising students to consider academic careers in cardiovascular disease and stroke research. |