Vision

The Francis Family Foundation envisions current and future generations of well-rounded individuals who are creative, lifelong learners, striving to achieve their fullest potential within their communities.

Mission

The Francis Family Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals, families and communities with particular commitment to the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

By modeling and reflecting our family’s vision, history, interests and values, we will accomplish this mission through effective and innovative grant making in Health Research, Lifelong Learning and Arts & Culture, by:

- implementing the best research and best practices;
- focusing on community-based initiatives and collaborations;
- supporting programs that address unmet community needs; and
- focused, proactive grant making.
Values

Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusiveness
All members of our communities should have the opportunity to participate fully in educational, cultural and social activities. We should seek ways to improve access to these activities to individuals and families of all ages, religions, races, ethnicities, financial abilities and physical and mental abilities. We believe in the rich diversity of the greater Kansas City area, and promote inclusiveness in the way we work and in our grant making activities. We seek to celebrate our common experiences and concerns through our grants.

Collaboration
We encourage and model collaboration among funders and community organizations.

Community
We embrace and promote a strong sense of community and seek opportunities with great potential for strengthening community life and the urban fabric.

Excellence
We are committed to standards of excellence in the results of our grant making.

Innovation and Creativity
We value the creative process among people of all ages and backgrounds, and we encourage excellence and innovation in our grant making activities.

Integrity & Sustainability
We maintain and promote fiscal and program integrity in our operations and grant making activities to ensure the sustainability of organizations that enrich community life.

Passion for Learning
We promote a lifelong passion for learning as a key factor in developing active, well-rounded and contributing individuals in our communities.

Planning & Evaluation
We believe in planning and evaluation as critical methods to assess the effectiveness of our grant making so we can make a difference.
Since 1913, when Parker Browne Francis II first launched the Oxygen Gas Company in Kansas City, Missouri, the Francis family has continued to be an inspirational and influential force in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In 1951, as the company grew and developed into a major national manufacturer and supplier of industrial and medical gases, Parker B. Francis II established a foundation bearing his name to help promote education and research in the fields of anesthesiology and related pulmonary sciences. Parker B. Francis III also established a foundation to fund his interests in education, and arts and culture.

Since the two foundations merged in 1989 to become the Francis Family Foundation, the pattern of grantmaking made today still reflects the interests of the founding donors. For more information about the history of the Foundation, please visit www.francisfoundation.org.

Today, thanks to the vision of Parker B. Francis and his son John B. Francis, the Francis Family Foundation celebrates 60 years of philanthropy, including the funding of the Parker B. Francis Pulmonary Fellowship Program and support of educational and arts programs geographically located within the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

It is in the context of this history that the 2012 Annual Report honors the accomplishments of more than 250 grants representing a social investment of $5 million. While John B. Francis and his wife Mary Harris Francis are both deceased, stewardship of the Foundation was passed to their children – Ann F. Barhoum, David V. Francis, J. Scott Francis and Susan Neves – and six non-family Board members – Gregory Glore, Mary Lou Jaramillo, David Oliver, Charles Schellhorn, Susan Stanton and Katie Wendel. Susan Neves has since retired from the Board. In 2008, the Foundation Board of Directors created an updated Strategic Plan, which identified three major funding priorities: Pulmonary Research, Lifelong Learning and Arts & Culture. This is the final report under that framework.

2012 Annual Report
Brighter Futures for All Generations

Arts & Culture

The Foundation continues to support the many arts and culture institutions that “anchor” a strong and vibrant quality of life in Kansas City. At the same time, through our small arts grants program, the Foundation seeds both new and emerging organizations, and expands access for children and underserved populations throughout the community. The Foundation Board of Directors approved more than $1 million through 77 grants to support arts and culture organizations and programs in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

- General Operating Support Grants

Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art
$10,000

Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City
General Operating Support and Regional Cultural Planning Initiative
$75,000

Foundation funding helped create a Regional Cultural Plan to promote deeper engagement with the community in support of the principle that arts and culture are fundamentally important for all people.
Arts Tech
$10,000

Coterie Theatre
$20,000

Folly Theater
(Performing Arts Foundation of Kansas City)
$10,000

Harriman-Jewell Series at William Jewell College
$10,000

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival
$10,000

Heartland Men’s Chorus
$10,000

“Our artistic director Dr. Joseph Nadeau tells the Chorus before every concert performance that we never know who will be in the audience or how we will affect them with our music.

This is a story of two very different members of our audience who were truly moved by our performance of ‘Falling in Love Again’... one for the musical quality, the other for the memories invoked by the show. For background, this concert compared gay life in Germany during the Weimar period in the late 1920s with the dramatic changes brought on by the Nazi regime in the ’30s and ’40s.

During our Saturday performance Kansas City native and opera star Joyce DiDonato came to the show in support of our guest artist Morgan Smith and to hear the Chorus. When recognized from the stage prior to the show, the audience offered a standing ovation to her. After the show she commented how moved she was by the content and quality of the concert and within a few days became a new patron of the Chorus.

The following night we had made arrangements to bring to the theater George Detsios, a well-known retired Kansas City shopkeeper now living in a nursing home, who as a gay man in Germany was a survivor of at least two concentration camps during WWII. When introduced to the audience that evening, he rose from his chair, using his walker for support, and waved to a thundering applause and extended standing ovation. After the concert he was weeping as he told us how much he appreciated the opportunity to experience the important show.

Heartland Men’s Chorus Singer Dr. Darren Haun with special guest George Detsios in the lobby of the Folly Theater prior to the performance on March 24, 2013. Dr. Haun suggested we invite Mr. Detsios to attend the concert.”

Kansas City Art Institute
$25,000

Kansas City Ballet
$15,000

Kansas City Repertory Theatre
$25,000

Kansas City Young Audiences, Inc.
$30,000

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art
Operating Support toward Education and ARTreach Expenses
ArtReach is a children’s educational program that allows children with mental and physical challenges to spend time learning together.
$10,000

Self portraits by ArtReach participants
Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre
$10,000

Excerpt from a letter of support from Sherri Roulette Mosley, African American Actress

“My experience with being in the cast of ‘For Colored Girls’ an all black female cast holds an intimate source of pride to me. The positive feedback we got from the audience from that show directed by Karen [Paisley], and the word of mouth that spread throughout the black community whose attendance grew each performance, during one of the worst snowstorms KC has seen in years, was added proof of how eager the African American community wants to see ‘us’ and ‘our’ stories being told or how we fit into the story of everyday life.

But it was the emotions I felt while in the audience at the production of ‘Ragtime’ that took me by surprise … One could not help be awed just by watching the totality of this bigger-than-life show … And just seeing this show with so much talent that included so many minorities all in one Kansas City production was truly quite moving! All I can think was this company has more heart and audacity than any theatre in town! In that moment as a local actress, who happens to be black, I couldn’t have been more proud that I too had been a part of the MET.”

Art & Culture

Program or Project Grants

Friends of Chamber Music
Stile Antico concert, one of three early music concerts
To support the Tallis Scholars concert Dec. 2011.
$10,000

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey
KCFAA Educational Programs
To support year-round educational programs, including in-school/community residencies, lectures/demonstrations, KCFAA studio classes, Ailey Trio workshops, Setting the Stage, and Ailey Company school performances at the Kauffman Performing Arts Center.
$20,000

Kansas City Symphony
Youth Education & Community Engagement
To bring the transformative power of great music to those who would otherwise not have access.
$20,000

Paul Mesner Puppets
$10,000
Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College
$12,500
The Charlotte Street Foundation
$30,000
Toy and Miniature Museum
$67,500
Unicorn Theatre
$10,000

Foundation funding supports the lively performances of Paul Mesner Puppets whose classic stories are recast in contemporary terms to the delight of both local and national audiences.

Kansas City Symphony Link Up Concert
KCPT - Public Television 19, Inc.
*Arts/Culture on KCPT*
To highlight artists and entrepreneurs, leaders and overachievers from all walks of life—and in the process help Kansas Citians discover substantially more about this place we call home.
$25,000

KCPT - Public Television 19, Inc.
Building a ‘Digital Platform’ to Strengthen Our Community and Make KCPT More Financially Self Sustaining
*To build capacity.*
$50,000

Lyric Opera of Kansas City
*Lyric Education Programs 2012/2013*
To support a broad range of opera programs for young people from kindergarten through 12th grade in the Kansas City metropolitan area.
$10,000

Matty Rhodes Counseling & Art Center
*Westside After School and Summer Cultural Arts*
To provide critical multicultural arts education for children K-8th through afterschool programming and Summer Art Camp at the Westside Center.
$20,000

Mid-America Arts Alliance
*Cultural Programming and Professional Development in the Greater Kansas City Area*
To bring visual arts exhibitions, live performances, and professional development activities to audiences, artists and cultural organizations in the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area.
$10,000

UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance
*Musical Bridges Program at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance*
To provide intensive one-on-one musical training to promising 5th-12th graders from Kansas City urban schools.
$20,000

Musical Bridges students

UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance
*Leadership/Innovation/Sustainability Funds for Musical Bridges Program of the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance*
To recognize the leadership of this innovative program in urban public schools and help sustain services for promising students in the future.
$100,000

Arts & Culture

**Small Arts Grant Fund**

*Non-arts organizations funded for arts programming*

Alzheimers Association - Heart of America Chapter
*Hispanic Art Outreach Initiative*
To support four Hispanic Memories in the Making© programs, a watercolor based art program for the cognitively impaired.
$1,400
The Foundation provides support to organizations, programs and initiatives in arts and culture that promote excellence in artistic and creative expression and enable greater access to arts and culture for children, families and the underserved with a concerted effort in the urban core of Kansas City.

**Associated Youth Services, Inc.**
*Art on 8th*
To provide high-quality, consistent and professional arts instruction. The Art on 8th Program for will help 20-30 severely at-risk adolescent boys achieve visible success, increased self-esteem and a creative outlet for their energy.
$1,500

**Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City**
*The Arts Program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City*
To provide exposure to -- and experience in -- a range of artistic mediums to 800 low-income urban youth who would not otherwise have such access.
$7,000

**City Vision Ministries**
*Live-Work Arts*
To support the development of affordable artist studio and artist live-work spaces.
$3,500

**Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC Inc.)**
*EPIC Clay Studio*
To provide art education to economically at-risk youth, as well as special needs students from Unified School District 500.
$7,000

**Donnelly College**
*Community Arts Initiative*
To serve as a creative hub for art and cultural offerings sponsored by the College and cross-promoted at partnering institutions in order to create a vibrant and unified arts community within the urban core of Kansas City, Kansas.
$7,000

**El Centro**
*Cuentame un Cuento (Share Your Story)*
To engage K-6 children and youth in reading and writing skills to tell stories about themselves, their families, and community to reconnect and re-engage them.
$4,550

**Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative**
(Greater Kansas City Community Foundation)
*Fiesta KC 2013: Advancing Visual and Performing Arts*
To expand visual and performing arts opportunities for artists and the community at Fiesta KC, opening doors for Kansas City artists and performers and instilling an appreciation of the arts among young people and adults.
$6,385

**Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)**
*Art Therapy for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse*
To allow children who are the victims of sexual abuse to express themselves through Art Therapy.
$7,000

**Park University**
*Poetry Jams with Park*
To engage high school students from the poorest neighborhoods in the Kansas City metropolitan area in the creative process of poetry writing and performance.
$3,920
The small arts grant program provides support that promotes grassroots arts and culture programs throughout the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

**Arts and Culture**

### Small Arts Grant Fund

- **Allegro Community Children's Choir Scholarship Program**
  To provide scholarship support for youth who have a desire to sing but do not have the means financially to pay for tuition, uniforms or concert tickets.
  $3,500

- **Arts in Prison Conducting Hope**
  To continue support for 'Conducting Hope', a documentary film that tells the story of the East Hills Singers, the only prison choir in the country that performs outside of prison and is also comprised of volunteers from the Kansas City community.
  $7,000

- **The Barn Players Sound System Upgrade**
  To upgrade the sound system to keep pace with the increasingly larger casts and technically advanced musicals produces. This upgrade will include both the repair of salvageable equipment and the acquisition of new equipment to supplement the former.
  $2,520

- **Kansas City String Quartet Program Free In-School String Clinics**
  To provide customized in-school clinics throughout the school year at no cost to the participating schools.
  $3,500

- **Plug Projects (Fractured Atlas Inc.) Programming Budget for 2013**
  To support for Plug Projects’ 2012/2013 season of exhibitions and art related events and projects.
  $3,000
Quixotic Performance Fusion  
*Surfaces II*  
To support a free performance for the public in April 2013 on the South exterior wall of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art incorporating aerial, dance, music and visual projections.  
$3,500

Spinning Tree Theatre  
'Shipwrecked! An Entertainment – The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told by Himself)' by Donald Margulies  
To support 'Shipwrecked! An Entertainment', a Kansas City premiere by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Donald Margulies and an entertaining yet intelligent three-actor vaudevillian romp with radio theatre overtones.  
$1,500

Traditional Music Society  
*African Dance Youth Ensemble*  
To support the program designed to develop self-esteem and personal identity within urban core African-American youth.  
$4,692

Writers Place  
(Midwest Center For The Literary Arts Inc)  
'In Our Own Words: Poetry Writing Workshops for At-Risk Middle and High School Students'  
To provide a coping tool for underserved teenagers while introducing them to the wonders of creative writing.  
$7,000

### Arts and Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Arts Grant Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessible Arts, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Youth Ballet Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art In The Loop Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Greater Kansas City Community Foundation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts Council of Johnson County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$4,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chestnut Fine Arts Center Inc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emily A Silverman Memorial Fund (Em's Spotlight)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gem Theater Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Inc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heartland Chamber Music, Ltd.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heritage Philharmonic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Independence Symphony Orchestra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>InterUrban ArtHouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$4,683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kacico Dance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansas City Chamber Orchestra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansas City Chorale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansas City Filmmakers Jubilee, Inc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansas City Jewish Museum/Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KC Fringe Festival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owen/Cox Dance Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Ko-Arts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>She&amp;Her Productions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>StoneLion Puppet Theatre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Foundation supports organizations and their programs and initiatives that improve and strengthen the quality and capacity of the local early childhood care and learning system.

The Capitol Rotunda was filled with the joyous sounds of student musicians from across the state of Missouri as part of Fine Arts Education Day.

Lifelong Learning

In 2012, the Foundation invested $1.5 million in Lifelong Learning grants, which supported early childhood development efforts in the metro area with an emphasis on professional development for providers and support for advocacy efforts.

Parents are the key to a child’s early development. To strengthen their capacity, the Foundation approved funding for parent initiative grants, which will help increase school readiness. These programs focus primarily on literacy development and verbal communication in children from birth to age five. Several also take a more comprehensive view of early childhood development with literacy and communication as part of several core training components. The Foundation expects these efforts to lay the groundwork for children’s success in school, an important benchmark for the community.

Early Education System

Missouri Alliance for Arts Education
MAAE Advocacy Program
To increase advocacy efforts in the Missouri legislature, public schools, State Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education through research, communication, coalition building and organizational capacity building.
$30,000

The Capitol Rotunda was filled with the joyous sounds of student musicians from across the state of Missouri as part of Fine Arts Education Day.

Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development
(Metropolitan Community College Foundation) Francis Resource Center and FICYD Director
To support the Francis Resource Center as it transitions to a self sustaining community resource.
$291,682.50
Total Award: $583,365
Awarded in 2011
The Foundation provides support to organizations, programs and initiatives that provide parents and family members the skills that instill lifelong learning in all children.

### Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development (Metropolitan Community College Foundation)

**Francis Resource Center and FICYD Director**

To help support the Francis Resource Center’s services to early education and youth development providers.

$539,413

**Family Child Care Provider**

In May of 2012, Sargent First Class, “T,” retired from the US Army Reserves after 25 years of military service that included deployments to Bosnia and Afghanistan. Her military background, and past experience working for Parents-As-Teachers, Head Start, and the Kansas City Public Schools led her to begin an entrepreneurial venture as a family home child care provider several years ago.

T’s relationship with FICYD began when she enrolled in the Institute’s “Developing Your Family Child Care” course in fall of 2012. She completed the course in December 2012 and requested ongoing support. In partnership with her Francis Institute coach, T has successfully applied the business principles she learned about insurance, record-keeping, taxes and child care administration to her child care program. She has maintained her child care license for up to 10 children. In addition, her program met all criteria for the Quality Instrument for Informal Child Care assessment in spring of 2013.

A water main break last winter meant that she had to close her doors for several weeks. As a result, some families were forced to look elsewhere for child care. Her coach helped T to not only develop a marketing plan to address her program’s need for more children, but to also maintain a quality program for those who remained.

Dedicated to providing a high quality program for young children, she is continuing her education at UMKC in the Early Childhood Master’s degree program. Her coach from FICYD located at MCC-Penn Valley continues to support T as she both creates a solid foundation for her business and provides high quality care and education for young children. T’s goal is eventually to open a child care center and the coach from the Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development will be there to support her as she moves forward.

### Kansas Action for Children, Inc.

**General Operating Support and Kansas Coalition for School Readiness**

$50,000

### Metropolitan Council on Early Learning

**Mid-America Regional Council Community Services Corporation**

**General Operating Support**

$140,000

### Lifelong Learning

#### Parent’s Ability

**DeLaSalle Education Center**

**Parent and Child Education Support Program (PACES)**

To provide quality early childhood education for students’ children while assisting these students to develop responsibility and good parenting skills, as they simultaneously earn credit towards high school graduation and reach their educational goals.

$20,000

The Foundation provides support to organizations, programs and initiatives that provide parents and family members the skills that instill lifelong learning in all children.

### The Family Conservancy

**General Operating Support**

$60,000

### Kansas City Area Parents as Teachers Consortium

(Olathe Unified School District #233)

**General Operating Support**

$20,000

### KCPT - Public Television 19, Inc.

**Children’s Literacy Programming**

To support broadcast programming that builds literacy skills in children.

$30,000
Operation Breakthrough
General Operating Support and OB Collaborative Project
To ensure at-risk children are ready for kindergarten.
$65,000

Reach Out and Read Kansas City
(Kansas University Endowment Assoc)
General Operating Support
$50,000

Lifelong Learning

Special Programs & Initiatives

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Missouri’s Comprehensive Early Childhood Assessment System
$13,000

Partnership for Regional Educational Preparation-Kansas City (PREP-KC)
General Operating Support
$175,000

Pulmonary Research

Pulmonary Research Grants

American Thoracic Society
General Operating Support
$10,000
Total Award: $50,000
Awarded in 2009

Thomas L. Petty Aspen Lung Conference
Parker B. Francis Lectureship
To provide lectures by established, world renowned leaders in topics related to lung disease.
$3,500
Total Award: $10,500
Awarded in 2011

Pulmonary Research

PBF Fellowships
The Foundation created the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program, a national postdoctoral study in pulmonary research, in 1975. The Foundation remains its sole benefactor today. The program supports the development of outstanding investigators planning careers in pulmonary research and awards fellowships in fields related to lung biology and pulmonary disease. Since then, the Foundation has contributed $60 million in support of more than 820 Fellows. In 2012, total Foundation grantmaking in support of the Parker B. Francis Fellowships was $1.5 million and supported the work of 35 fellows. For more information, visit www.francisfellowships.org.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
Columbia University Medical Center

“The respiratory immune system, which protects the body from inhaled pathogens, often causes harmful effects on lung tissue. In many human diseases, the resulting damage disrupts normal lung function and accounts for many of the complications seen with viral and bacterial pneumonias.

T cells from the lung protect against infection without causing damage to lung tissue, while T cells recruited from lymphoid reservoirs fail to control infection and can actually cause greater tissue damage. This study aims to better understand the difference in the two types of T cells to improve current treatment options for lung disease.”

Damian L. Turner, Ph.D. (Fellow)
Donna L. Farber, Ph.D. (Mentor)

Dartmouth Medical School
Duke University
Investments in Pulmonary Research are intended to attract, develop and retain the best researchers in the field of pulmonary medicine.

Harvard College
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University
Johns Hopkins University
Mayo Clinic Rochester

National Jewish Medical and Research Center
Northwestern University
Oregon Health and Science University
Stanford University
The University of Chicago
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of California, San Francisco
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Michigan

“Oxygen is the most prescribed drug on the market today. However, despite the benefits that supplemental oxygen provides, mechanically ventilated patients suffer long-term side effects, such as increased rate of lung failure and increased lung infections. Additional research is needed to understand how supplemental oxygen therapy causes damage. Our works shows a new method that the protein, IRAK-M, limits the early creation of antioxidants, leading to decreased lung injury after oxygen exposure. We show that IRAK-M, which plays an important role in shutting down inflammation, can also stop the generation of antioxidants. Additional research is needed to further explain how IRAK-M reduces lung injury as a result of supplemental oxygen therapy.”

Mefan N. Ballinger, Ph.D. (Fellow)
Theodore J. Standiford, M.D. (Mentor)

University of Pittsburgh
University of South Alabama
University of Toronto
University of Western Ontario
University of Wisconsin at Madison
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University

Pulmonary Research

Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science
In 2012, we lost a great researcher, mentor and friend. Dr. Jo Rae Wright was a creative and tireless educator who was a role model for researchers, educators, and women in science. She will be greatly missed. To honor her spirit, the Foundation established the Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science given to the top graduating fellow who best exemplifies the values of Dr. Jo Rae Wright. The award celebrates excellence in science and is given to the research home of the fellow for lab supplies to further support their research.

This year, the award was given to support Dr. George R. Washko’s research at Brigham and
Women's Hospital. Dr. Washko is using pulmonary imaging to improve research in patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) that may be useful in clinical studies.
$5,000

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Dr. Haspel received a perfect score on his NIH application. Receiving that award made him ineligible for the PBF Fellowship. This award is made in recognition of his excellent research, to defray laboratory expenses.
Role of Macroautophagy and Circadian Clock Disruption in Sepsis Pathogenesis
$5,000

Capital Campaigns

Friends of the Zoo
Make Your Mark
To support renovation in the capital campaign and help fund the endowment.
$100,000
Total Award: $1,000,000
Awarded in 2007

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
Metropolitan Kansas City Performing Arts Center, Capital Campaign Endowment
To support a world-class performing arts center, which will enrich and enhance the experience for the artist, the audience, and provide the myriad of services necessary where great performances can happen.
$200,000
Total Award: $1,000,000
Awarded in 2005

Discretionary Grants

Toy and Miniature Museum
Endowment for Toy & Miniature Museum in honor of Mary Harris Francis
$750,000
Total Award: $3,000,000
Awarded in 2011

The Francis Family is proud to support the shared passion of Mary Harris Francis and her lifelong friend Barbara Marshall at the Toy and Miniature Museum, which boasts the world's largest collection of marbles and the largest collection of toys and miniatures in the Midwest.

City of Kansas City, Missouri
(Greater Kansas City Community Foundation)
To develop a Cultural Arts plan to promote Kansas City as a cultural crossroads and premier destination for the arts and evaluate strategies for its sustainability.
$10,000