



FRANCIS FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

*Brighter futures for all generations*

# 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.

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](http://www.francisfoundation.org).

Today, thanks to the vision of Parker B. Francis and his son John B. Francis, the Francis Family Foundation celebrates 69 years of philanthropy, including the funding of the Parker B. Francis Pulmonary Fellowship Program and support of educational and arts programs located within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

It is in the context of this history that the 2020 Annual Report honors the accomplishments of 339 grants representing a social investment of more than \$5.5 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 – Debby Ballard, Mary Lou Jaramillo, David Oliver, J. Michael Sigler, Susan Stanton and Jean-Paul Wong. Susan Neves has since retired from the Board.

# SYSTEMIC RACISM

The Francis Family and Board of Directors of the Francis Family Foundation condemn racism in all its forms and call for our community to address the systemic racism affecting minority communities. Our Foundation has always been against racism and bigotry wherever, and however, it manifests itself in our community and in our country.

We are steadfast in our support of equal opportunity and better education for those who are at risk of being left behind. We believe in creating better futures for everyone, especially minorities who have faced many disadvantages in the past and today. These core beliefs have guided our philanthropy for decades and will continue to do so in the future.

## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In 2020, the Foundation continued its use of the Strategic Framework approved in 2013, which serves as a path to making this vision a reality. It is built upon strategies that target talented individuals and organizations that strive to provide excellent programs and services within their communities. Specifically, the Foundation focuses its strategies in the areas of pulmonary research, lifelong learning with a particular emphasis on early childhood development, and arts and culture. By focusing support in these areas, the Foundation is committed to making a difference in improving the quality of life through our grantmaking.

The following stories from our grantees illustrate some of their successes in the three focus areas of our Strategic Framework. The stories begin with Arts & Culture and Lifelong Learning locally, and then Pulmonary Research Fellows in the United States and Canada.

## GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

For nearly 71 years, the Francis family has been involved in philanthropy and made large investments in the Greater Kansas City area in education and arts and culture, and across the country, pulmonary research. The Francis Family Foundation has been honored to partner with all the dedicated nonprofit organizations that serve our community.

In 2022, the Foundation structure will transition from a community board to a family board, and the granting priorities and strategies of the Foundation will change with this transition. The future of grantmaking by the family is still under discussion but grants to the pulmonary fellowship program and the small arts fund will continue. The family and board have valued their long relationship with our grantee partners and are committed to providing three years of bridge funding for current grantees during this transition.

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUNDING

In response to the global pandemic, the Foundation contributed \$250,000 to the COVID-19 emergency fund at the Greater Kansas City Community Fund, which was used to support struggling organizations throughout the metropolitan area. Another \$250,000 was invested in individual Arts & Culture and Lifelong Learning grants in support of numerous organizations in Kansas City.



**SUPPORTING  
ARTS & CULTURE  
IN KANSAS CITY**

# ARTS & CULTURE

## DESIRED RESULTS

An excellent ecology of the arts grows and is sustained regionally; well- rounded children, youth and adults who can thrive in the 21st Century.

## MEASUREMENT

- Arts and culture organizations and artists using effective and innovative strategies for audience development
- Schools with meaningful Arts in Education experiences integrated in school curricula and aligned with the common core standards
- Establish local public funding streams in the region to support arts and culture organizations and artists

## OVERALL GRANTMAKING STRATEGY 2020

Support and advocate for development of the greater Kansas City area as a creative regional hub for excellence in arts and culture, rich with expression of diverse cultures and affording access to all levels of creative participation. 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.

*Francis Family Foundation funding promotes the principle that arts and culture are fundamentally important for all people.*

## 2020 ARTS & CULTURE GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

The Foundation awarded 80 grants totaling \$1,135,000 in support of arts and culture organizations and programs in the Greater Kansas City area.

Highlights from a list of 32 one-year grants (made to large and midsize arts and culture organizations for \$880,000) using a continued emphasis on effective and innovative strategies for audience development are reflected by the following:

- Mattie Rhodes Center received a \$35,000 grant to help make arts accessible to the Latino community through after-school art programs, art camps, neighborhood cultural festivals and gallery exhibits.
- Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey was granted a \$30,000 gift to help provide high quality arts education and performance art experiences and continuing efforts to implement audience development strategies, attracting new audiences, enriching, and diversifying the local Kansas City arts community.

**The Foundation awarded 80 grants totaling \$1,135,000 in support of arts and culture organizations and programs in the Greater Kansas City area.**

**CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION  
PROGRAM/INITIATIVE  
2020 GRANT AMOUNT: \$40,000**

Charlotte Street Foundation was established in 1997 by advocate, David Hughes, Jr. as a response to needs articulated by artists within the community for an organization that was a valuable creative, social, and economic resource for artists living in Kansas City. At that time, Kansas City, despite a rich creative environment, offered few important vehicles or opportunities for valuable early (and mid-career) recognition. Opportunities for exhibition and critical reviews were severely limited, as were financial resources for supporting individual artists.

For the past 20 years, Charlotte Street has done exactly that, providing resources for individual artists by building upon core principles of supporting, challenging, and empowering artists of exceptional vision. Beginning in 1997 Charlotte Street launched the Visual Arts Awards program—at the time offering \$2,500 grants to four local, qualified artists. The only organization in the region to offer direct monetary support to artists.

That beginning program has developed to now include an expansion of the Awards program, offering \$10,000 unrestricted cash awards to Visual and Generative Performing Artists; a Studio Residency Program that supports upwards of 30 artists a cycle, a Curatorial Residency Program connection emerging, talented curators to artists in Kansas City; travel grants to notable residencies such as Art Omi Residency and international art fairs; partnership programs such as the Rocket Grants Program with the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas, and the Artboards Program with Missouri Bank in the Crossroads.



# SMALL ARTS GRANTS FUND

The Foundation continued the annual Small Arts Grant Fund supporting small arts groups and community-based arts programs. After review by the Small Arts Committee, the Board approved 48 grants totaling \$250,000, contributing toward a diverse and vibrant arts scene in the region. Some examples include the Kansas Academy of Theatrical Arts, Kansas City Women's Chorus, and Traditional Music Society. Non-arts organizations with an arts & culture program are also encouraged to apply and the 2020 grantees included Gordon Parks Elementary School and Synergy Services.

## **THE TRADITIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT 2020 GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000**

Founded in 1995 by renowned musician and educator Bird Ellington Fleming, the Traditional Music Society is an arts-in-education organization devoted to the promotion of community cohesiveness and educational excellence through the study of music and dance from many world cultures, particularly West Africa, Brazil, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Through music and dance from these cultures, the organization helps address and improve delinquent behavior, self-esteem, interpersonal skills, group dynamics, critical thinking, and cognitive skills in African American children and young adults from the Kansas City Missouri urban core.



# ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS LIST

The following section includes a list of 2020 grantees beginning with Arts & Culture and Lifelong Learning locally, followed by PBF Fellows in the United States and Canada.

## **ALBRECHT-KEMPER MUSEUM OF ART**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$10,000

## **ARTS KC REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$75,000

## **ARTS TECH**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$20,000

## **CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$40,000

## **COTERIE THEATRE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$25,000

## **FOLLY THEATER**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC**

Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **HARRIMAN-JEWELL SERIES (William Jewell College)**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **HEART OF AMERICA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **HEARTLAND MEN'S CHORUS**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$30,000

## **KANSAS CITY BALLET**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$50,000

## **KANSAS CITY FRIENDS OF ALVIN AILEY**

General operating support and diversity symposium  
Grant amount: \$30,000

## **KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$25,000

## **KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY**

Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$30,000

## **KANSAS CITY YOUNG AUDIENCES**

General operating support and STEM  
Grant amount: \$60,000

## **KCPT**

Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$50,000

## **KCUR FM 89**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$25,000

## **KEMPER MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **LYRIC OPERA OF KANSAS CITY**

Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$25,000

## **MATTIE RHODES CENTER**

Latino cultural art program  
Grant amount: \$35,000

## **MESNER PUPPET THEATER**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **METROPOLITAN ENSEMBLE THEATRE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$20,000

## **MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$10,000

## **MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$40,000

## **NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM & MEMORIAL Liberty Memorial Association**

Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$20,000

## **NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART (Nelson Gallery Foundation)**

Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$75,000

## **PERFORMING ARTS SERIES AT JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

# ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS LIST

## **THE KANSAS ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS IN EDUCATION**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$40,000

## **UMKC CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DANCE**

Musical Bridges  
Grant amount: \$20,000

## **UNICORN THEATRE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$15,000

## **SMALL ARTS GRANTS FUND**

Arts & Culture Organizations

### **ART AS MENTORSHIP**

Mattie Rhodes Center  
Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$5,000

### **ARTS ASYLUM**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

### **ARTS COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$7,000

### **ARTS IN PRISON**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

### **ARTS INSPIRED NETWORK**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$1,000

### **BAND OF ANGELS, CORP.**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$7,000

## **BLACK REPERTORY THEATRE OF KC**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$7,000

## **CITY IN MOTION DANCE THEATER**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## **EMILY A. SILVERMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## **FISHTANK THEATRE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## **FRIENDS OF OPUS 76 QUARTET**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$2,500

## **GEM THEATER CULTURAL & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$8,000

## **GuildIt**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$7,000

## **HEARTLAND CHAMBER MUSIC**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$4,000

## **INTERURBAN ART HOUSE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$8,000

## **KANSAS ACADEMY OF THEATRICAL ARTS**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$10,000

## **KANSAS CITY A CAPPELLA**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$2,000

## **KANSAS CITY ARTISTS COALITION**

Exhibition & program support  
Grant amount: \$8,000

## **KANSAS CITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## **KANSAS CITY CIVIC CHORUS**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## **KANSAS CITY JAZZ ALIVE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$2,000

## **KANSAS CITY PUBLIC THEATRE**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$2,000

## **KANSAS CITY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS AND ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE ARTS**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$3,000

## **KANSAS CITY WOMEN'S CHORUS**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$8,000

## **KC DANCE FESTIVAL/OWEN-COX**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$8,000

## **MIDWEST MUSIC FOUNDATION**

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$8,000

# ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS LIST

## LEE'S SUMMIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$6,000

## NO DIVIDE KC

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$4,000

## REEL IMAGES FILM & VIDEO GROUP

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$4,000

## RIGHTFULLY SEWN

Seamstress training program  
Grant amount: \$7,000

## SPINNING TREE THEATRE

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$7,000

## SPIRE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## STONE LION PUPPET THEATRE

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## STORLING DANCE THEATER

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## THE STUDIOS

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$4,000

## THE WHOLE PERSON

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$3,000

## THEATRE FOR YOUNG AMERICA

2018-19 season of education theatre  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$10,000

## WATERFIRE KC

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$2,500

## WESTPORT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$5,000

## WILLIAM BAKER CHORAL FOUNDATION

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$1,000

## WYLLIAMS/HENRY CONTEMPORARY DANCE STUDIO

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$3,500

## YOUTH CHORUS OF KC, INC.

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$3,000

## YOUTH SYMPHONY OF KANSAS CITY

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$7,000

## SMALL ARTS GRANTS FUND

Non-Arts Organizations

## COMMUNITY HOUSING OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY (CHWC)

Program support  
Grant amount: \$4,000

## GORDON PARKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Art equipment  
Grant amount: \$2,500

## LITERACY KANSAS CITY

Writers for Readers  
Grant amount: \$10,000

## SYNERGY SERVICES

Program support  
Grant amount: \$4,000

# SUPPORTING LIFELONG LEARNING IN KANSAS CITY



# LIFELONG LEARNING

Francis Family Foundation funding encourages lifelong learning for people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds through innovative, diverse, creative and research-proven ways of learning.

## DESIRED RESULTS

Well-rounded children and youth who are creative, flexible, globally competitive, adaptive to a culture of innovation and diversity, passionate about learning, and able to problem solve, in groups and individually, so they can thrive in the 21st Century.

## MEASUREMENT

- Children entering kindergarten school ready
- Children prepared to read on grade level in third grade
- Children and youth actively engaged in achieving high academic standards

## OVERALL GRANTMAKING STRATEGY 2020

Invest in innovative organizations and attract, develop and retain the best teachers, leaders, staff and other people who provide and advocate for a continuum of:

- Quality during a child's earliest learning experiences
- Access to excellence in K-12th grade, especially in the urban core of Kansas City
- The family's role as first teachers in early literacy

The Foundation approved a \$1,145,000 investment in organizations supporting the lifelong learning goals of entering Kindergarten school ready and reading at grade level in third grade.

Quality teaching – Kids entering Kindergarten school ready is critical for their future success in school and beyond. The Foundation continues to support efforts to improve the quality of teaching in many high-quality early learning centers throughout the metro area. Key to this work are the diverse and inclusive efforts of organizations, such as El Centro, Front Porch Alliance, Operation Breakthrough, Reach Out and Read, and Start at Zero. All were recipients of continued support from the Foundation in 2020. The Foundation expects these efforts to lay the groundwork for children's success in school, an important benchmark for the community.

Advocacy – Our focus on affecting policy through advocacy efforts remains strong. Foundation resources are limited and supporting direct services can only reach a very limited number of children. As a result, increasing amounts of Foundation lifelong learning funds are focused on advocacy. The Alliance for Childhood Education (ACE), Kansas Action for Children and the Missouri Budget Project were awarded grants in support of their advocacy efforts.

In addition, the Foundation Board provided \$85,000 in additional funding to various Lifelong Learning organizations to support general operating expenses during the pandemic.

**START AT ZERO**  
**GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT**  
**GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000**

The dedicated professionals at Start at Zero are determined to be a productive and proactive partner with parents and caregivers to promote healthy early childhood development and create a thriving educational ecosystem that prepares all children for a lifetime of success.

Start at Zero (SAZ) offers early childhood programs that produce short-term academic, health and social gains and family stability, paired with long-term benefits. The responsive early childhood family programming is designed and implemented using the Protective Factors framework recommended by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. When parental resilience, social connections, concrete support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence (the Protective Factors) are established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes and a family environment that promotes optimal child development is created, reducing and/or diminishing the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Start at Zero partners with families with children prenatal to age five through its major program offerings, including Family Visiting featuring the evidence-based Parents as Teachers curriculum and Developmental Screenings using the standardized Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Through SAZ's signature program, Family Visiting, Parent Educators utilize the evidence-based Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum and offer a menu of available services, including continuous developmental screenings, healthcare access and utilization support, extensive guided referral and resource connections, and longer-term visiting for children prenatal to age five.



# LIFELONG LEARNING GRANTS LIST

## ENTERING KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL READY

### AlignED (formerly ACE)

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$100,000

### EL CENTRO

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$135,000

### FRONT PORCH ALLIANCE

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$25,000

### KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN, INC.

Advocacy  
General operating support  
Grant amount: \$50,000

### KCPT - PUBLIC TELEVISION 19, INC. (Kansas City Public Television)

Direct Service  
Program/Initiative  
Grant amount: \$25,000

### KC SCHOLARS

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$50,000

### MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL (MARC)

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$50,000

## MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT

Advocacy  
General operating support  
Grant amount: \$50,000

## OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$150,000

## PRE-K COOPERATIVE

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$50,000

## REACH OUT AND READ

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$35,000

## START AT ZERO

General operating support  
Grant amount: 50,000

## THE FAMILY CONSERVANCY

Professional Development  
General operating support  
Grant amount: \$100,000

## UNITED INNER-CITY SERVICES

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$ 100,000

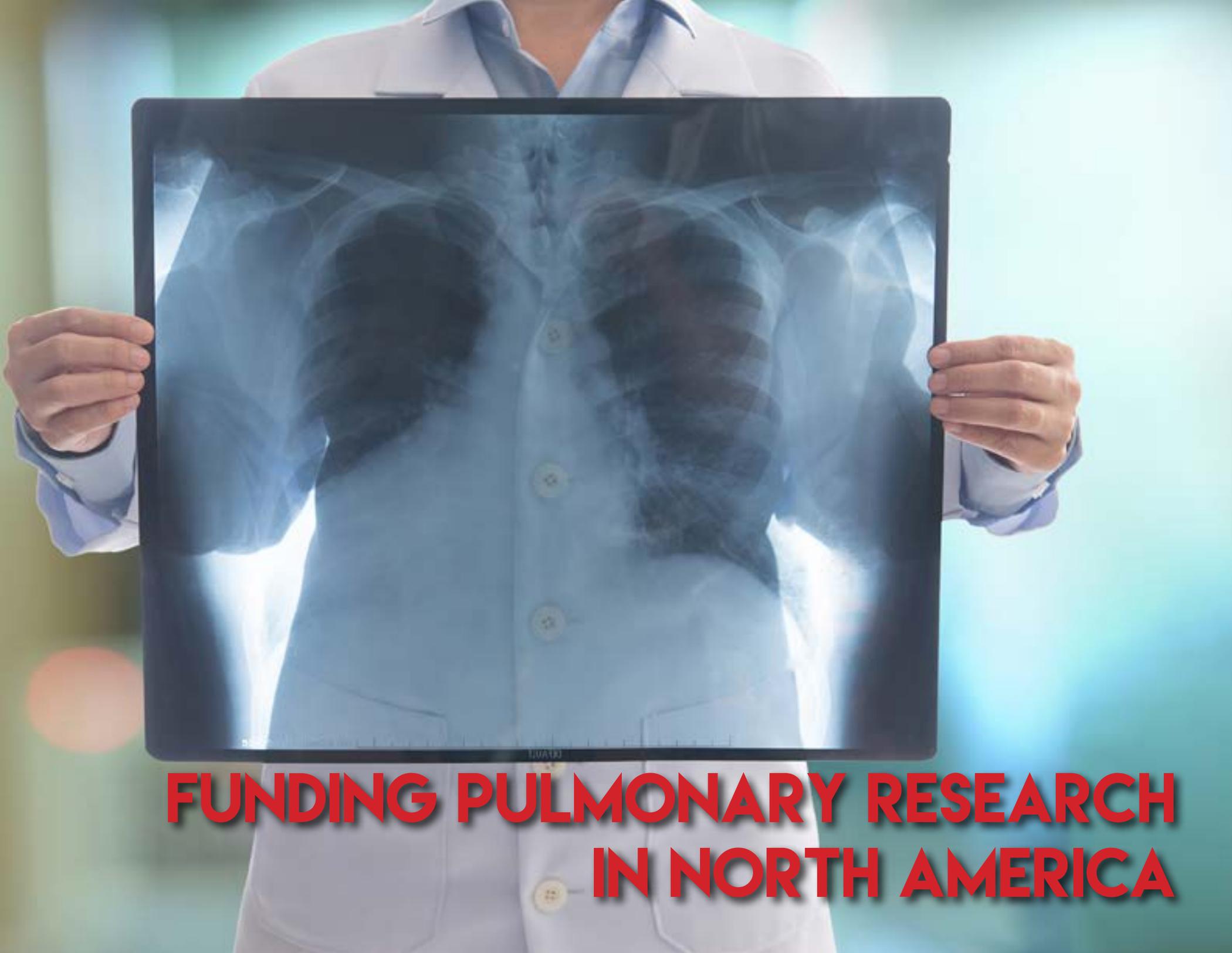
## READING AT GRADE LEVEL IN 3RD GRADE AND ACHIEVING HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS (K-12)

## PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION-KANSAS CITY (PREP-KC)

Professional Development  
General operating support  
Grant amount: \$125,000

## TURN THE PAGE KC

General operating support  
Grant amount \$50,000



# **FUNDING PULMONARY RESEARCH IN NORTH AMERICA**

# PULMONARY RESEARCH

Francis Family Foundation funding enables breakthrough solutions in pulmonary medicine leading to the development of enhanced treatments and cures for pulmonary diseases.

## DESIRED RESULTS

New scientists who serve patients with lung diseases through innovative research are supported at a key transition point in their career.

## MEASUREMENT

Increase number of researchers entering and remaining in the pulmonary research field.

## OVERALL GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

Attract, develop and retain the best researchers in the field of pulmonary research through the Parker B. Francis (PBF) Pulmonary Research Fellows Program.

The Foundation created the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program, a national postdoctoral study in pulmonary research, in 1975. Since then, the Foundation has contributed \$76 million in support of more than 950 Fellows. For more information, visit [www.francisfellowships.org](http://www.francisfellowships.org).

## 2020 PULMONARY RESEARCH GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

### 2020 PBF FELLOW

**RAGHU CHIVUKULA, MD, PHD**

**MENTOR: DAVID M. SABATINI, MD, PHD**

**INSTITUTION: MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Analysis of lysosome dysfunction in the pathogenesis of pulmonary fibrosis. Although it has been long appreciated that epithelial injury and stress can lead to pulmonary fibrosis, no current therapies target this critical step of the disease owing to a limited understanding of underlying biochemical mechanisms. We are interested in the role of specialized cellular “recycling bins” known as lysosomes, which have increasingly recognized roles in pulmonary fibrosis but have not been studied in detail previously due to inadequate experimental tools. Our group has now developed methods which allow exactly such biochemical and genetic characterization. We are focusing our initial efforts on a genetic disease which causes pulmonary fibrosis by disrupting lysosome function and a drug which acts similarly, with the intention to leverage the insights gleaned here to the treatment of patients with more common forms of this deadly disease.



***“The Parker B. Fellowship was key to enabling my transition to junior faculty by providing me start-up salary at the beginning of my position. During this time, I was then able to apply for government salary and operating funding to support my research program and staff. The value of the PBF Fellowship funding has been matched 107 times (\$17.4M) in subsequent grant funding I received.”***

**TILLIE-LOUISE HACKETT, PHD  
University of British Columbia  
(PBF Fellow, Class of 2012)**



**JO RAE WRIGHT AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE**  
**JONATHAN KROPSKI, MD, PHD**  
**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**GRANT AMOUNT: \$5,000**

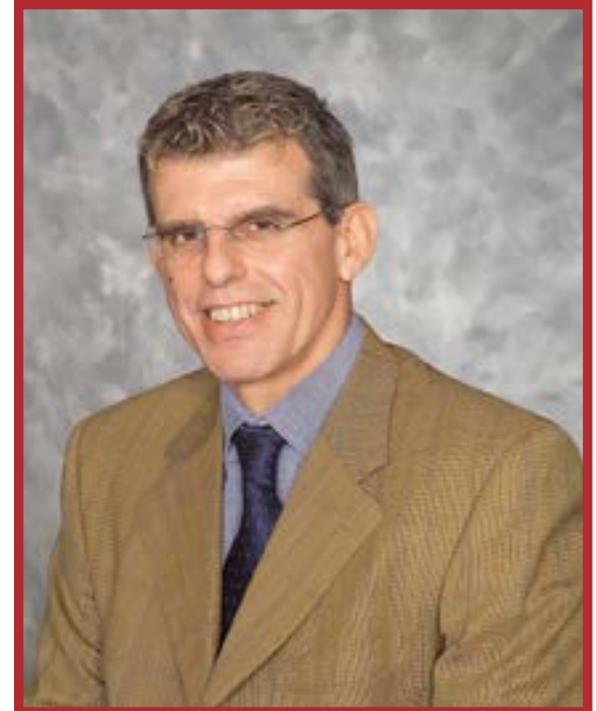
In 2012, we lost a great researcher, mentor, and friend. Jo Rae Wright, Ph.D. was a creative and tireless educator who was a role model for researchers, educators, and women in science. She will be greatly missed. To honor her spirit, the Foundation established the Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science given to the top graduating fellow who best exemplifies the values of Dr. 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.

In 2020, the Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science was awarded to Jonathan Kropski, MD, PhD at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. As a Parker B. Francis Fellow, he focused on the study of genetic mutations in genes related to telomere biology, which had been linked to pulmonary fibrosis. Using cell, stem cell and animal models, we will investigate the hypothesis that mutations in RTEL1 impair the ability of epithelial cells in the lung to repair DNA-damage, leading to ineffective repair of the lung epithelium following injury, promoting instead scar formation and progressive fibrosis. These studies should provide new insights into how these DNA-damage response pathways may play a more general role in driving lung fibrosis.

**PARKER B. FRANCIS LECTURER**  
*INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY*  
*MEETING*

Awarded to former PBF Fellows who are internationally recognized for their outstanding contributions to scientific research and teaching.

**DAVID GOZAL, MD, MBA, PHD (HON)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SCHOOL OF**  
**MEDICINE**





**UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER  
PBF SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  
DR. NAVNEET DHILLON, MENTOR  
GRANT AWARDED: \$190,237 FOR 2012-19  
GRANT RENEWED: \$ 93,000 FOR 2020-23**

The PBF Summer Fellowship Program provides valuable and unique medical research opportunities for Kansas City area undergraduate students pursuing careers in medicine and medical research. The program grant was renewed in 2019 for \$93,000 covering years 2020 to 2023.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 PBF Summer Fellowship Program was not held. We anticipate it will be held again in 2021.

*From left: Navneet K. Dhillon, PhD and Polly E. Parsons, MD*



# PULMONARY RESEARCH GRANTS LIST

## AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY

General operating support  
Grant amount: \$10,000  
Awarded: \$38,000 in 2020

## THOMAS L. PETTY ASPEN LUNG CONFERENCE

**PROJECT:** The Parker B. Francis Lectureship  
Description: To support the PBF Lectureship, where lectures are delivered by established, world renowned leaders in the chosen topic related to lung disease, while the abstract presenters usually are young investigators in training.  
Grant amount: \$0 (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)  
Awarded: \$10,500 in 2018

## CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

Professional Development  
Dr. Barry Stripp, Mentor  
Dr. Changfu Yao, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Senescence as a driver of progenitor cell dysfunction in pulmonary fibrosis  
Grant amount: \$52,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Professional Development  
Dr. Jahar Bhattacharya, Mentor  
Dr. Rebecca F. Hough, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Mitochondrial mechanisms underlying alveolar-capillary barrier regulation  
Grant amount: \$26,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Professional Development  
Dr. Graham R. Barr, Mentor  
Dr. Michaela Anderson, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Visceral adipose tissue and frailty in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis  
Grant amount: 37,500  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Professional Development  
Dr. Jeffrey J. Fredberg, Mentor  
Dr. Adam Haber, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Implicating rare epithelial cells in allergic asthma using single-cell analysis  
Grant amount: \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Professional Development  
Dr. Roy G. Brower, Mentor  
Dr. Sarina K. Sahetya, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Driving pressure as a target for lung-protective ventilation in ARDS  
Grant amount: \$52,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Professional Development  
Dr. Dale M. Needham, Mentor  
Dr. Megan Hosey, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** An early psychological intervention for anxiety symptoms in patients with acute respiratory failure  
Grant amount: \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## LUNDQUIST INSTITUTE AT HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

Professional Development  
Dr. Richard Casaburi, Mentor  
Dr. Nicholas G. Jendzjowsky, Fellow (transfer)  
**PROJECT:** A novel neuronal mechanism of asthmatic bronchoconstriction  
Grant amount: \$26,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Professional Development  
Dr. David C. Christiani, Mentor  
Dr. Crystal North, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Are people living with HIV more susceptible to air pollution-associated lung disease?  
Grant amount: \$37,500  
Awarded \$225,000 in 2020

## MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Professional Development  
Dr. David M. Sabatini, Mentor  
Dr. Raghu Chivukula, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Analysis of lysosome dysfunction in the pathogenesis of pulmonary fibrosis  
Grant amount: \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

Professional Development  
Dr. Matthew R. Hodges, Mentor  
Dr. Gary C. Mouradian, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** Latrogenic and inherent factors driving greater SIDS risk in premature infants  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Professional Development  
Dr. Dee W. Ford, Mentor  
Dr. Nandita R. Nadig, Fellow  
**PROJECT:** The clinical, economic, and psychological impact of inter-ICU transfers  
Grant amount: \$52,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

# PULMONARY RESEARCH GRANTS LIST

## **MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Professional Development  
Dr. Agnieszka Rynda-Apple, Mentor  
Dr. Kelly Shepardson, Fellow  
PROJECT: The role of IFNAR2 in regulation of damage during *A. fumigatus* lung infection  
Grant amount: \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## **PRESIDENT & FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE**

Professional Development  
Dr. Jeffrey J. Fredberg, Mentor  
Dr. Jennifer A. Mitchel, Fellow  
PROJECT: Cell jamming in epithelial migration and repair  
Grant amount: \$52,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## **RYERSON UNIVERSITY**

Professional Development  
Dr. Arthur Slutsky, Mentor  
Dr. Miranda Kirby, Fellow  
PROJECT: Developing and validating CT and MRI small airway disease bio-markers  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## **SETTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

Professional Development  
Dr. Steven F. Ziegler, Mentor  
Dr. Laurie C. Eldredge, Fellow  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## **STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

Professional Development  
Dr. Paul L. Bollyky, Mentor  
Dr. Elizabeth B. Burgener, Fellow  
PROJECT: Pf bacteriophage in pseudomonas lung infections in cystic fibrosis  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## **UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM**

Professional Development  
Dr. Brent A. Carter, Mentor  
Dr. Chao He, Fellow  
PROJECT:  
Grant amount: \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## **UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Professional Development  
Dr. James C. Hogg, Mentor  
Dr. Dragos Vasilescu, Fellow  
PROJECT: Comprehensive multi-resolution investigation of IPF pathology  
Grant amount \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

Professional Development  
Dr. Richard J.S. Wilson, Mentor  
Dr. Nicholas G. Jendzjowsky, Fellow  
PROJECT: A novel neuronal mechanism of asthmatic bronchoconstriction  
Grant amount: \$26,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO (Regents of)**

Professional Development  
Dr. Peter M. Mourani, Mentor  
Dr. Aline B. Maddux, Fellow  
PROJECT: Functional recovery after prolonged mechanical ventilation in children  
Grant amount: \$28,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

Professional Development  
Dr. David A. Schwartz, Mentor  
Dr. Jonathan S. Kurche, Fellow  
PROJECT: The epithelial biology of the pulmonary fibrosis risk allele rs35705950  
Grant amount: \$52,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

Professional Development  
Dr. Gordon S. Mitchell, Mentor  
Dr. Arash Tadjalli, Fellow  
PROJECT: Modulation of respiratory motor plasticity through neuron-microglia interactions  
Grant amount: \$52,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN (Regents of)**

Professional Development  
Dr. Bethany Moore, Mentor  
Dr. Stephen Gurczynski, Fellow  
PROJECT: ILC and granulocyte regulation of IL-17-mediated post-HSCT lung pathology  
Grant awarded: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Professional Development  
Dr. Michal F. Beers, Mentor  
Dr. Jeremy B. Katzen, Fellow  
PROJECT: Understanding the role of the distal lung epithelium in pulmonary fibrosis  
Grant amount: \$20,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## **UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**

Professional Development  
Dr. Fadi Lakkis, Mentor  
Dr. Mark E. Snyder, Fellow  
PROJECT: The impact of t-cell chimerism on rejection following lung transplantation  
Grant amount: \$35,844  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

# PULMONARY RESEARCH GRANTS LIST

## UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Professional Development  
Dr. Anuradha Ray, Mentor  
Dr. Marc C. Gauthier, Fellow  
PROJECT: The CXCL10-CXCR3 axis in the pathogenesis of steroid-refractory severe asthma  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Professional Development  
Dr. Steven Shapiro, Mentor  
Dr. Corrine R. Kliment, Fellow  
PROJECT: Role of adenine nucleotide translocase in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease  
Grant amount: \$49,330  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Professional Development  
Dr. Zea Borok, Mentor  
Dr. Ya-Wen Chen, Fellow  
PROJECT: Identification of progenitors in lung organoid from human pluripotent stem cells  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH CENTER AT HOUSTON

Professional Development  
Dr. Holger K. Eltzschig, Mentor  
Dr. Xiaoyi Yuan, Fellow  
PROJECT: MicroRNA-147 controls the lipopolysaccharide-induced inflammatory response in macrophages  
Grant amount: \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT SAN ANTONIO

Professional Development  
Dr. Jenny Hsieh, Mentor  
Dr. Alvaro G. Moreira, Fellow  
PROJECT: Optimizing mesenchymal stem cell therapy for bronchopulmonary dysplasia  
Grant amount: \$52,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2019

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN

Professional Development  
Dr. Benjamin D. Levine, Mentor  
Dr. Kara N. Goss, Fellow (transfer)  
PROJECT: Bioenergetic impairment causing cardiac dysfunction in young adults born pre-term  
Grant amount: \$27,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON

Professional Development  
Dr. Marlowe W. Eldridge, Mentor  
Dr. Kara N. Goss, Fellow  
PROJECT: Bioenergetic impairment causing cardiac dysfunction in young adults born pre-term  
Grant amount: \$27,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Professional Development  
Dr. Susan H. Guttentag, Mentor  
Dr. Jennifer Sucre, Fellow  
PROJECT: Wnt signaling in bronchopulmonary dysplasia  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## YALE UNIVERSITY

Professional Development  
Dr. Charles D. Dela Cruz, Mentor  
Dr. Limesh Sharma, Fellow  
PROJECT: molecular mechanisms of fibrosis induced antiviral response  
Grant amount: \$75,000  
Awarded: \$225,000 in 2020

## YALE UNIVERSITY

Professional Development  
Dr. Erica L. Herzog, Mentor  
Dr. Changway Rye, Fellow  
PROJECT: Mitochondrial DNA as a novel biomarker in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

## YALE UNIVERSITY

Professional Development  
Dr. Henry K. Yaggi, Mentor  
Dr. Andrey V. Zinchuk, Fellow  
PROJECT: Novel physiologic predictors of adherent CE to positive airway pressure (NICEPAP)  
Grant amount: \$54,000  
Awarded: \$156,000 in 2018

# 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. Through the vision, history, interests and values of the Francis Family, we strive to accomplish effective and innovative grantmaking in three main areas: Pulmonary Research, Lifelong Learning and Arts & Culture.

To achieve our mission, we will

- implement best research and best practices;
- focus on community-based initiatives and collaborations;
- support programs that address unmet community needs; and,
- practice focused, proactive grantmaking

# VALUES

## **ACCESSIBILITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS**

Everyone in our communities should have the opportunity to participate fully in educational, cultural and social activities. We seek ways to improve access to these activities for 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 our grant making activities. We seek to celebrate common experiences and concerns through the investments we make.

## **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 & 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.