

2015

Annual Report to the Community



PACIFIC
NORTHWEST
• DIABETES
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

Research Improves Lives

Welcome to PNDRI's 2015 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

At PNDRI, we have a goal to create an environment that fosters **innovation**.

These stories provide a sense of the **curiosity and creativity that are typical of our researchers**. We continue to work for solutions to diabetes and related disorders, such as fatty liver disease and obesity. Along the way, our researchers generate insights into challenges as far-reaching as testicular cancer, chromosomal disorders, and global child development.

As the complexity of biology becomes more apparent, the “team science” approach

becomes more critical. We know that **PNDRI is part of that team**. Every year, PNDRI invests in infrastructure to ensure that our staff has access to the latest technology and tools. In 2015, we committed significant resources to new equipment, intellectual property rights, foundational research, and recruitment of new scientists.

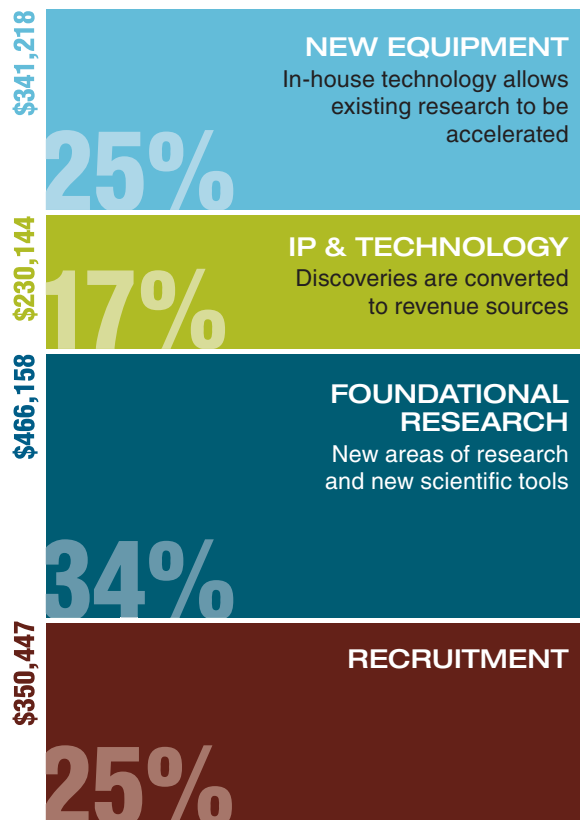
Teaming up with our own scientists, PNDRI continues to **make exciting research discoveries** that hold the potential to deliver health impact.

Best wishes,

John R. Wecker, Ph.D.

President & CEO

Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute



PNDRI IS INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Aneuploidy

Demystifying
chromosome errors

Chromosomes come in pairs, but errors in cell division can leave a cell with an extra or missing chromosome, which is called aneuploidy. In humans, aneuploidy is considered harmful because it is the leading cause of miscarriages and birth defects, including Down syndrome. But scientists at PNDRI discovered a mystery. Studying wild strains of yeast, they found that aneuploidy is common, well tolerated, and can even be advantageous to cells in some environments. Understanding how and when aneuploidy is actually beneficial may open up opportunities for innovative solutions to **prevent diseases like cancer and Down syndrome.**

Information Theory

Who's afraid of
the big bad dataset?
Not us.

Researchers at PNDRI have developed a new approach to data analysis. Their groundbreaking Information Theory method is capable of analyzing tens of thousands of variables simultaneously—something that, until now, was impossible. Currently, PNDRI researchers are the only ones who know how to apply the method, but that is about to change. In 2015, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation offered a grant for PNDRI researchers to use the new approach analyze large sets of childhood development data collected from around the world. Beyond the pioneering analysis of billions of bits of data, PNDRI researchers will also be able to use the grant to **develop software that will make it accessible to analysts in other fields.**

Modifier Genetics

Genetic variations
affect the severity
of disease

Scientists at PNDRI study Modifier Genetics to understand how gene interactions affect health. The role of modifier genes is to influence, or modify, the function of other genes. For instance, single gene diseases were once thought to be just what they sound like; if you inherit a single genetic variation, you get that disease. It turns out, however, that not everyone with a single gene mutation will have the same disease. In some, the disease is life threatening. For others, the disease is manageable or unnoticed. This variety is a factor of the influence of modifier genes. By understanding them, we hope to find targeted therapies to **prevent or change the severity of a disease including some of our worst enemies: diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.**

Financials

BALANCE SHEET		2015	2014
Total Assets	\$	22,209,328	21,975,940
Total Liabilities	\$	1,614,346	1,259,744
Net Assets	\$	20,594,982	20,716,196

* Fiscal Year Ending September 30

OPERATING REVENUE 2015

Grants and contracts from federal and governmental agencies	\$	6,280,665	68%
Private grants	\$	1,639,553	18%
Contributions	\$	486,705	5%
Investment Income	\$	381,777	4%
Other revenue	\$	503,649	5%
Total Revenue	\$	9,292,349	100%

With gratitude to our donors who share our pride and enthusiasm in sustaining an outstanding research program.

Gifts made in fiscal year 2015 from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

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