

**2020
ANNUAL
REPORT
TO THE
COMMUNITY**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

While 2020 will be remembered as a year of challenges, 2020 also hallmarked the unprecedented development of vaccines against COVID-19 in record time. This amazing feat was only possible because of three decades of basic science examining fundamental aspects of human biology.

At PNRI, our scientists are driven by the same desires and instincts that led scientists to discover mRNA thirty years ago and to dream that their discovery would one day help the world when it was in dire need. Science in service to improving human health is at the heart of PNRI's mission.

In 2020, PNRI added two new scientists, Drs. Claudia Carvalho and Lisa Stubbs, both of whom are renowned geneticists. Their foundational research is finding new ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent a host of human diseases, ranging from serious illnesses in children to the contribution of chronic social stress to the development of metabolic disorders, such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Also in 2020, PNRI's scientists contributed notable research advances, including tools to better predict children at risk for developing type 1 diabetes, new computational methods to identify networks of genes responsible for maintaining our health, and insights into how our immune system responds to cancerous cells.

The support of our donors allows us to continue to recruit innovative researchers conducting pioneering science that redefines our understanding of the role of genetics in health and disease and paves the way for a healthy future.

Best wishes,

John Wecker, PhD, *President & CEO*

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“AT PNRI, WE PUT OUR SCIENTISTS AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING WE DO.”

Stress Response is in Our Genes

Lisa Stubbs, PhD, relocated her lab to PNRI, returning to the Pacific Northwest where she grew up. Along with her team, she studies the genetic and environmental origins of autism, anxiety, stress, and depression. Focusing on the common genes between humans and mice, she is uncovering the effects of social stress on health and human behavior, finding a genetic basis for the fight, flight, or freeze response to stress — a fascinating topic in these exceptionally stressful times.



Hagopian Type 1 Test is Top Genomic Advance

A paper written by the lab of William Hagopian, MD, PhD describing a new method for predicting which newborns will develop type 1 diabetes (T1D) was named one of 2020's top 10 advances in genomic medicine by the American Society for Human Genetics. Researchers found that a combined-risk score — including factors such as genetics, biomarkers, and a family history of diabetes — better predicts which babies will develop T1D in childhood. Their method also dramatically improved efficiency in screening newborns to prevent ketoacidosis, a serious complication affecting 40% of children with T1D.



What Rare Illness Can Teach Us

Through her collaborations with clinicians worldwide, Claudia Carvalho, PhD, identifies new patterns of genetic mutations which lead to rare and severe congenital malformation syndromes. Using advanced genomic tools, she identified several gene mutations responsible for Robinow Syndrome, a very rare disease that causes skeletal abnormalities in both children and adults for which the molecular cause was unknown for 50 years. Dr Carvalho and her team joined PNRI in 2020.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Mike Boyle, Board Trustee, is Inspired to Change the World Through Philanthropy

During his 20-year career at Microsoft, Bill Gates' philanthropy inspired Mike Boyle, "I liked the idea of helping to change the world for the better through my giving."

In 2007, Mike's son was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and then, five years later, his wife died of cancer. The next year, a friend introduced him to PNRI.

"Back when I joined the board, it was PNDRI, with a D for diabetes. Many of us had diabetes or had family members with diabetes, which generated a passion to support organizations making a difference."

Since then, PNRI has broadened its research focus to include a wider variety of diseases where genetics plays a critical role.

"PNRI is still doing outstanding science on type 1, but we still do not fully understand how the relationship between our genetics and our environment leads to disease. By studying other diseases with a strong genetic component, PNRI will learn things that hopefully will one day help children at risk for developing diabetes."

During the unrest in the summer of 2020, Mike decided to pass on his interest in giving to his children. "I gave them a



"By studying other diseases with a strong genetic component, PNRI will learn things that hopefully will one day help children at risk for developing diabetes."

– Mike Boyle, PNRI Trustee and donor

budget and asked them to thoughtfully choose 2-3 charities where the money could make a difference." The venture was so successful, they did it again at Christmas.

Mike continues to lend his expertise on the board at PNRI. He also volunteers as President of JDRF Northwest and is an assistant coach for Lakeside Varsity Basketball.

IN MEMORIUM

Sen-itiroh Hakomori, MD, PhD (February 13, 1929 - November 10, 2019)

Dr. Sen-itiroh Hakomori, "a shining star in glycosphingolipid medical research," spent the last two decades of his career as part of the PNRI family. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, he is fondly remembered for his generous mentorship of young scientists.

Carol Heimkes (March 3, 1943 - August 8, 2020)

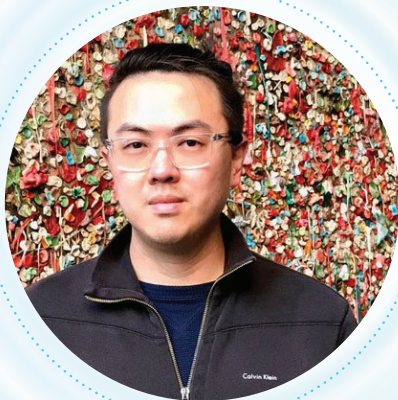
PNRI's An Evening of Wine was the invention of Carol Heimkes, Board Trustee. Carol refused to be hampered by her type 1 diabetes and was an inspiration to all of us, as a volunteer and donor.

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

Lei Yan, PhD, post-doc, Rick McLaughlin's Lab

"I study 'jumping genes,' which have the amazing ability to copy and paste themselves and reorganize the genome. With PNRI's support and Rick's mentorship, I am lucky to be able to focus on my research with very few nonscientific concerns."

– Lei Yang, PhD, post-doc, Rick McLaughlin's Lab



Our deep appreciation to all our donors, sponsors, board members, and friends who joined us on Zoom for the virtual An Evening of Wine & Science. The video-rich, two-week campaign beat our expectations and provided important funds for our mission to improve human health.

2020 FINANCIALS

Balance Sheet

Assets	\$28,507,376
Liabilities	\$815,598
Net Assets	\$27,691,778

REVENUE

Grants	\$ 2,722,266
Private grants	\$ 190,387
Contributions	\$ 173,789
Investment income	\$ (62,874)
Other revenue	\$ 1,094,807
Total Revenue	\$ 4,914,947

With gratitude to the generous donors who support our visionary research.

Gifts made from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

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 development@pnri.org.