



## **WCG Foundation Annual Report**

Improving Lives  
by Delivering on the Promise of Research

Dear Friends,

With this, our first annual report, we note some major milestones for **WCG Foundation (WCGF)**. We also acknowledge those whose leadership, expertise, and generosity are helping us realize our vision of improving lives by delivering on the promise of research.

We took critical steps in 2016 to build the infrastructure that will sustain the work of WCGF and position us to have a long-term, positive impact on researchers, research participants, and patients around the globe. We also took concrete actions to start making a difference—now.

Our first grant, for example, enabled New York University's Langone Medical Center to launch an innovative research ethics training program. Our recommendations for institutional review boards could ease the approval for desperately ill patients who want to try experimental medicines.

WCGF is extremely fortunate to have a Board of Directors who share an unwavering commitment to the Foundation's mission and are willing to grapple with often difficult but key questions. Every board member has brought leadership skills and expertise to the table during 2016, and I warmly thank each of them for their essential contributions.

I also am grateful to the philanthropically minded corporations, foundations, and individuals who understand the importance of our work and, therefore, supported WCGF in 2016. Our donors are remarkable for both their insight and foresight. They value high-quality, ethical research and the discoveries that it makes possible. Through their vision and generosity, our donors are advancing our efforts and having an immeasurable impact on the research community and the general public.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie A. Speers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjorie A. Speers, PhD  
Executive Director

## A Report to Our Community

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*Every day, people around the world reap the benefits of research. At WCGF, our goal is to make sure that continues—and in 2016 we made considerable progress in furthering that objective.*

*We provide support and services that are fundamental to the success of high-quality, ethical research. Much of our work occurs behind the scenes to help safeguard research participants, ensure the integrity of research data, and reduce the risk to patients who ultimately will rely on the medications that research makes possible. Other efforts are rooted in compassion. They focus on giving desperately ill patients access to experimental medicines without causing undue harm or jeopardizing the prospect of future cures.*

*Following are some of the successes that donor support helped make possible last year.*

### An innovative research ethics curriculum at NYU

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Early on, WCGF recognized the need to strengthen ethics training for young physicians and researchers around the globe. To help address this issue, we awarded a two-year \$200,000 grant to New York University Langone Medical Center (NYULMC) to fund curriculum development and support faculty participation in lectures, webinars, panel discussions, and other outreach efforts. The grant period runs through mid-2017.



The program has made great strides under the skilled leadership of Arthur Caplan, PhD, the Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor and head of the Division of Bioethics at NYULMC. In the program's first year, more than 400 doctors, residents, and medical students in cancer, medicine, orthopedics, pediatrics, and surgery participated in rounds presentations on research ethics.

Research professionals at 16 institutions worldwide attended presentations on ethical considerations of expanded access to experimental medicines (compassionate use). In addition, for the first time, engineering students at NYULMC were offered a novel, three-credit course on research ethics and integrity.

## The Expanded Access Project

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The issue of expanded access to experimental medicines is often in the news these days. Yet despite the increased interest and media coverage, the roles and needs of physicians and institutional review boards (IRBs) are seldom discussed.



To assist these key players—and the desperately ill patients requesting permission to try experimental medicines—last year we launched the Expanded Access Project. We are extremely grateful to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and GlaxoSmithKline for their leadership grants in support of this effort.

Our goal is to transform expanded access by making the process more transparent, efficient, equitable, and accessible. Patients who are requesting expanded

access have no time to spare, so we are doing everything possible to help pave the way to approval.

Already, WCGF has been able to remove the cost barrier that prevents some patients from seeking expanded access. In partnership with IRBs, we have taken important steps to streamline and standardize the IRB application and review process. We are educating treating physicians on their roles and responsibilities, how to navigate IRB review, and how to apply for the required Food and Drug Administration approval.

## The vision for 2017

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Perhaps our most significant success in 2016 was in laying the foundation for the future. In the coming years, we will expand our program offerings, build on existing relationships, and reach out to additional partners worldwide.

In 2017 we will offer our first scholarships to enable research professionals from resource-poor countries to study research ethics and management in the United States. In the short term, our goal is to equip scholarship recipients to establish and improve IRBs in their home countries. Longer term, we intend to help nurture a global corps of young research leaders.

Through our Expanded Access Project, we will seek to engage the nearly 2,000 IRBs that review clinical research in finding new ways to make the review

process more patient- and physician-friendly. With the support of a grant from Pfizer, we will create a needs assessment tool to determine how best to assist physicians who apply for expanded access for their patients.

In addition, WCGF will move ahead with innovative, collaborative programs that tackle additional research-related issues that are not yet being addressed. We see opportunities to improve participation by communities that are under-represented in clinical trials. We also anticipate new concerns—and the need for new responses—related to increasingly data-driven research and healthcare systems.

As we have since our inception, WCGF will continue to take the lead in identifying and addressing obstacles to high-quality, ethical research. With your support, WCGF will help improve health and well-being worldwide.



## WCGF 2015 & 2016 Statement of Financial Position & 2016 Donors

### ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2016	2015
Cash	\$ 86,240	\$ 3,921
Grants receivable	\$ 50,000	--
Contributions receivable	\$ 4,000	--
Prepaid expense	\$ 3,865	\$ 5,859
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$ 244,105</b>	<b>\$ 9,780</b>

OTHER ASSETS	2016	2015
Website design costs	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500
Less accumulated amortization	\$ 4,833	--
Total other assets	\$ 9,667	\$ 24,280
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>\$ 253,772</b>	<b>\$ 24,280</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2016	2015
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 5,496	\$ 1,067

NET ASSETS	2016	2015
Unrestricted	\$ 209,643	\$ 23,213
Temporarily restricted	\$ 38,633	--
Total net assets	\$ 248,276	\$ 23,213
<b>Total liabilities &amp; net assets</b>	<b>\$ 253,772</b>	<b>\$ 24,280</b>

### 2016 DONORS

#### Foundations

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

#### Corporations

GlaxoSmithKline  
Johnson & Johnson  
WIRB Copernicus Group

#### Individuals

##### \$5,000-\$10,000

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen McLean  
Drs. Daniel Blumenthal & Marjorie Speers

##### \$2,500-\$4,999

Dr. Lindsay McNair  
Dr. Don Deieso  
Mr. Alan Leftkowitz

##### \$1,000-\$2,499

Ms. Anita Allen  
Dr. Peter Buckley  
Mr. David Farber  
Mr. David & Ms. Jennifer Forster  
Mr. Kenneth Getz  
Dr. Joanne Waldstreicher  
In Memory of her Father,  
Elliot Waldstreicher

##### \$500-\$999

Ms. Sandra Jackson

##### \$1-\$499

Anonymous  
Ms. Marla Dessin  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nixon