

Progress report: GlaxoSmithKline Grant Supports WCGF Expanded Access Project

WCG Foundation (WCGF) has received \$15,000 from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for the Foundation's Expanded Access Project. The project helps desperately ill patients who have exhausted all treatment and clinical trial options and want to try experimental medicines.

WCGF will use the GSK grant to help institutional review boards (IRB) streamline the process that patients must navigate to gain access to investigational drugs and devices.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) offers an expanded access (compassionate use) program that allows desperately ill patients to request approval to try experimental medicines. The process requires patients to receive permission from the drug sponsor, FDA, and an IRB.

WCGF is seeking to improve the process by helping IRBs develop and test procedures that streamline the review without sacrificing patient safety. The GSK grant will aid this effort.

"The primary goal of our Expanded Access Project is to assist IRBs in transforming the IRB review process so patients can more easily access experimental treatments without suffering undue harm or jeopardizing drug development for future patients," WCGF Executive Director Marjorie A. Speers, Ph.D., said. "We also are working with FDA and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. The GSK grant is an excellent example of the industry support that we are receiving."

The grant is the second awarded to WCGF since the Foundation launched its Expanded Access Project last year. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has donated [\\$100,000](#).