



The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the  
Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc.

FY2025

# IMPACT REPORT

A black and white photograph showing two military personnel in camouflage uniforms working in a laboratory. They are wearing white gloves and are focused on a tray of test tubes. The background shows typical laboratory equipment like a centrifuge and shelving. The image is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent blue triangle on the left side of the page.

**Spotlight**  
on Science

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*The appearance of U.S. Department of War (DoW) visual information does not imply or constitute DoW endorsement.*





# President's Welcome

## A Message from Joseph Caravalho, Jr., M.D., MG, U.S. Army (Ret.)

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF), has focused on scientific research for more than four decades as part of its mission to advance military medicine. In this annual Impact Report, we share some of our many stories related to medical research by turning a spotlight on science.

Research is at the heart of HJF's federally authorized mission. Whether at military bases in the continental U.S. or in overseas laboratories across the globe, our hundreds of researchers contribute to the growing body of knowledge that makes it possible to promote wellness, prevent disease, protect against injury, diagnose diseases, develop treatments, and support recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration. Essentially, research ultimately optimizes warfighter agility, performance, survivability, and resilience. What makes this especially gratifying is that the benefit of these discoveries readily extends to the general population.

HJF was authorized by Congress in 1983 in legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan, with a clear purpose to partner with the Department of War (DoW) to support the Uniformed Services University and advance military medicine. Since then, it has served as a vital link between the U.S. military medical community and its federal and private partners.

One of the ways we have remained relevant, timely, and strategic is leveraging our unique "connective tissue" capabilities between DoW Medicine and the civilian sectors of industry, academia, NGOs, and individuals. This Impact Report highlights one of our most accomplished researchers, Dr. Manish Bhomia, who is identifying and validating biomarkers for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at the Uniformed Services University's School of Medicine. Learn more about Dr. Bhomia and his work in our Spotlight on Science on page 15 of this report.

Dr. Bhomia is only one example of the multitude of HJF researchers working in offices, laboratories, and clinics around the world in pursuit of military medical advancement. We understand that to achieve our mission we must attract and retain the best and the brightest individuals, including the researchers who work in our supported program laboratories near and far. Our scientists and researchers are core to the success of HJF in advancing military medicine for our nation's warfighters, which, in turn, advances global health. I couldn't be prouder.

I hope you enjoy our Spotlight on Science.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Caravalho, Jr." followed by "M.D." in a smaller size.

Joseph Caravalho, Jr., M.D.  
President and CEO



# Spotlight on HJF



To view our digital report,  
including videos, please scan this code.

# Introduction

More than four decades ago, Senator Henry M. ("Scoop") Jackson of Washington sponsored the legislation that would create The Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine. As a strong supporter of America's armed forces and their families, he envisioned an organization that would advance military medicine by supporting research and education efforts at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). He also hoped that this organization would become the focus of the interchange of expertise between the military and civilian medical communities.

On May 27, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed congressional legislation authorizing the establishment of a non-profit foundation, which five months later, was named The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF) in honor of Senator Jackson after his death. President Reagan called Senator Jackson one of the greatest lawmakers of our century. Today, HJF proudly focuses on the three objectives laid out in the original legislation:

- To carry out medical research and education projects under cooperative agreements with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU).
- To serve as a focus for the interchange between military and civilian medical personnel.
- To encourage the participation of the medical, dental, nursing, veterinary, and other biomedical sciences in the work of HJF for the mutual benefit of service members and society.

HJF has a unique and enduring partnership with USU, which was chartered by an act of Congress in 1972 as the nation's only federal health services university. As part of the objectives set forth in the congressional legislation, HJF continues today to support USU's programs and centers by managing and administering many important military medical studies—some of which are spotlighted in this report. Our extensive HJF scientific community covers a broad spectrum of research endeavors. HJF also supports the academic departments at USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing, the Graduate Programs in Biomedical Sciences & Public Health, and the Postgraduate Dental College, as well as the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute.

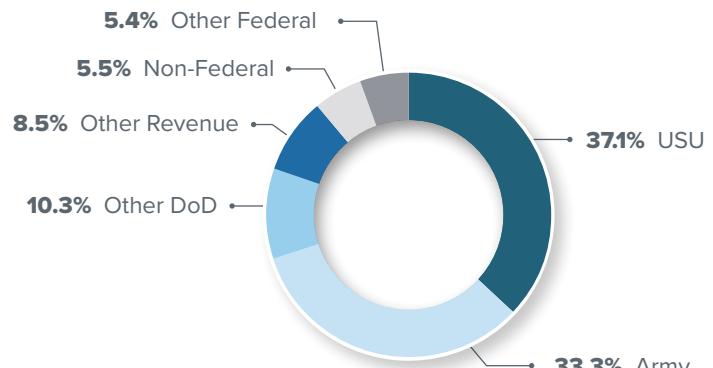
Today, HJF serves as a vital link between the military medical community and a multitude of governmental, academic, military, and international partners. We strive to be the "connective tissue," encouraging the interchange of ideas and innovation between federal and private partners. Through collaboration with our partners, we facilitate collaborative research that brings together the best minds to solve some

of the hardest problems, always aiming to improve health and well-being of our troops and civilians around the world. Our subsidiaries [HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI) and HJFMRILtd./Gte. In Nigeria] focus on providing outstanding medical research as well.

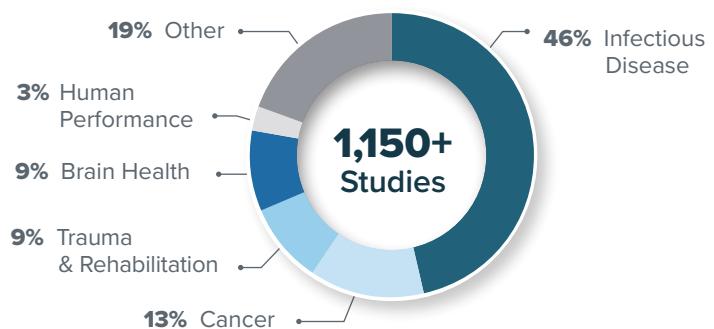
HJF's Innovation Ecosystem Initiative is one of our newest efforts to accelerate the development of dual-use medical products and services to benefit our nation's warfighters, veterans, and civilians. It currently includes key lines of effort to help startups bring products to market including the HJF Innovation Labs at Montgomery County, MD, which provides lab space (wet lab and engineering infrastructure) for startups, the HJF-MDC Venture Fund, and HJF's Innovation Advisory Committee.

The HJF Innovation Ecosystem Initiative represents just one of the many ways that HJF is pivoting to drive advances in military medicine. By encouraging new ways to foster the interchange of ideas in collaboration with our partners, HJF continues its focused mission to improve the health and well-being of our troops and civilians around the world.

## HJF Funding Sources



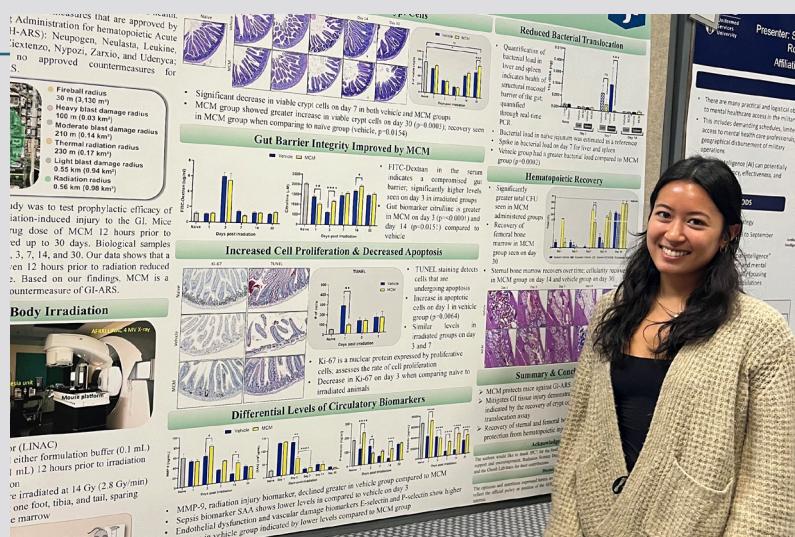
## Active Human Clinical Studies



# USU Hosts Research Days

The Uniformed Services University (USU) held its annual Research Days event May 13-15, 2025 showcasing the work of students, postdoctoral fellows, and research associates from the University's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM), Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), and the Postgraduate Dental College (PDC).

Dean Eric Elster, M.D., gave the Presidential Lecture. Ms. Betsy Folk, HJF's Chief Operating Officer, presented awards for the best oral and poster presentations to post-docs and research associates, including HJF sponsored travel awards to first place winners.



HJF employee Carmela Doroteo from the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute presented a poster session on Mitigation of Radiation-Induced Gastrointestinal Injury by Military Contingency Medicine.

## HJF Fellowships for Outstanding Uniformed Services University Students

HJF provides broad program and administrative support for USU, and since 1988, we have awarded fellowships to outstanding graduate students attending USU's School of Medicine nearing completion of their doctoral dissertation work.

This year's first place winner of the 2025 HJF Fellowship Award went to Anthony Erb, a 5th-year student in the Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) program, who is conducting

research under the mentorship of Dr. Sara Young-Baird in the Biochemistry Department. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Allison Ruchinskas, also a 5th-year MCB program student, and Sean Collier, a 4th-year neuroscience program student. Ruchinskas is conducting her research under the mentorship of Dr. Snow in the Pharmacology Department. Collier is conducting research under the mentorship of Dr. Emily Petrus in the Anatomy, Physiology, and Genetics Department.



# Summer Scholars and STEM Program

The USU Summer Scholars Program is an 8-to-10-week training program that provides high school and college students with unique exposure to basic and clinical research, social/behavioral research, health policy, and research administration. Trainees worked with research mentors from across the USU research departments. They also had the opportunity to attend or participate in scientific and professional development seminars, field trips, laboratory experiments and observations, and research planning meetings. At the program's conclusion, students prepared and presented abstracts on their work at the annual Summer Scholars Program symposium.

Additionally this summer, the Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Program hosted 150 middle school students for three weeks at USU. The mission of the three-week program was to ignite curiosity and build confidence in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) through hands-on learning, mentorship, and real-world problem solving. From June 23 to July 11, Dr. James Maiden (HJF Program Director), Adine Barrett, Jr. (Junior Program Coordinator), and Kali Holloway (Senior Program Coordinator), along with 19 of their staff and volunteers, led local students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades through an exploratory curriculum that fostered compassion, creativity, and innovation.

"We focus on hands-on learning, collaboration, and critical thinking, which are core skills in today's STEM fields," said Dr. Maiden. "Our achievers don't just consume technology; they create it, design with purpose, and learn to adapt in a rapidly evolving world."

This future-focused approach is embedded through interactive labs, coding challenges in robotics competitions, and real-world problem-solving tasks. Achievers are encouraged to think like scientists and engineers by asking questions, investigating theories, and learning from mistakes.

Students learned the five stages of the Design Thinking Process through engaging activities using raw materials and Legos. They conducted research on one of the following impairments: amputee (leg or arm), vision/hearing loss, para/quadriplegic, and communication impairment. Students learned firsthand how research advances are used to create innovative solutions to directly improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from impairments.

"If students are supported in these environments, they'll be able to soar through their education, while also maintaining their confidence," said Jennifer Mercado-Cruz, Head Mentor of the program.

Mentorship is essential, with lecturers and industry professionals guiding achievers not only intellectually but also in fostering perseverance and self-esteem. Cultivating both technical skills and a growth mindset, the program ensures that achievers are not only prepared for future STEM opportunities but also empowered to lead with innovation and purpose.

"This confidence in STEM is what we need to make a better tomorrow—after all, these students are our future," said Mercado-Cruz.





## HJF Innovation Ecosystem Initiative Hosts Inaugural Pitch Event

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF) and the HJF Innovation Advisory Committee (IAC) Members held their first Innovation Labs @ MontgomeryCountyMD Pitch Event on September 30, 2025.

The event was the culmination of efforts by HJF and its partnering agencies to identify prospective biotechnology startups with the potential to significantly impact a critical need in military medicine, a potential that could ultimately translate to advancements in parallel civilian care.

Several dual-use medical technology companies were invited to the pitch event based on a rigorous selection process. They presented first to the IAC in a closed session interview, followed by a full presentation in an open forum with an opportunity for industry experts, researchers, and investors to ask questions of company founders.

Select startups will be offered a chance to occupy a space in the Innovation Labs @ MontgomeryCountyMD (HIL), a unique regional biotech incubator focused on dual-use technologies that is integral to HJF's Innovation Ecosystem Initiative.

The incubator, strategically located in HJF's North Bethesda home office and available for occupancy in January 2026, provides the chosen startups access to cutting-edge wet and engineering labs and modern collaboration spaces. More importantly, the incubator provides participants with the invaluable benefit of accessing the knowledge and resources of HJF and their partners, as well as members of the IAC, helping them navigate the complexities of military medical technology development.

"Participation in HJF's Innovation Ecosystem Initiative will provide these emerging entrepreneurs with access to essential resources, expert mentorship, and valuable networking opportunities," stated Stephen Dalal, Vice President of Innovation Development at HJF. "This initiative is designed to improve their prospects for success and advance the development of dual-use medical technologies applicable in both military and civilian contexts."

Both pitch sessions enabled decision makers to assess the innovative and significant differences between these ideas and current market solutions. The unique features of these innovations, such as their adaptability and disease-modifying capabilities, as well as their potential value to the military in areas such as combat casualty care, were thoroughly evaluated continuing the Innovation Ecosystem Initiative's mission to accelerate the availability of relevant medical products and services to our nation's warfighters, veterans, and civilians.





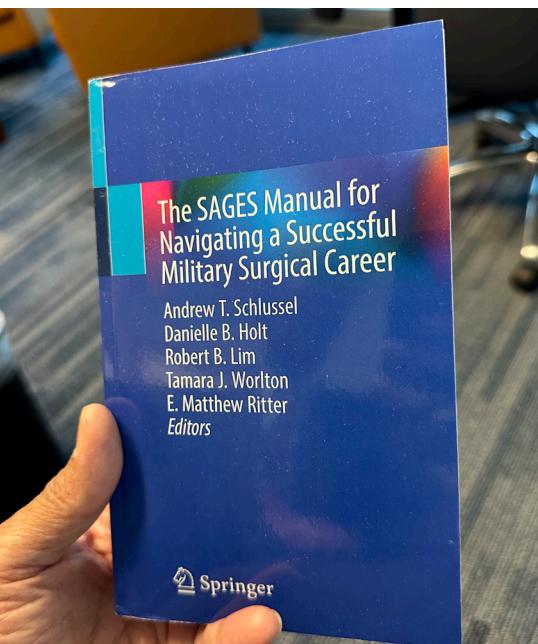
## HJF Innovation Labs @ MontgomeryCountyMD (HIL) Launches

HJF Innovation Labs @ MontgomeryCountyMD (HIL), as part of the HJF Innovation Ecosystem Initiative, searches for research teams that are developing medical technologies with dual use military and civilian applications. Designed to serve as a unique regional biotech incubator, this brand-new venture is designed to specifically address the challenges faced by growing startups and small companies.

The HJF Innovation Labs are part of a larger initiative at HJF to strengthen the region's innovation ecosystem in support of military medicine. The primary focus of the Innovation Labs is to accelerate the availability of relevant medical products and services to our nation's warfighters, veterans, and civilians. HJF aims to assist biotech and medical device startups

to surmount financial constraints and navigate the ins and outs of military medical technology development. Examples of support include implementing unique product development strategies, securing strategic partnerships for field testing and validation, navigating federal acquisition processes, and accessing sufficient private investment.

By offering both wet lab and engineering infrastructure for startups and small companies co-located within HJF's home office, the HIL provides a model for the development of technologies from federal laboratories and universities. In addition, it serves as an incubator for accelerating commercialization by leveraging HJF's existing infrastructure and networking capabilities.



### HJF's CEO is Published in Manual on Military Surgical Careers

HJF CEO, Dr. Joseph Caravalho recently published a chapter in the book "The SAGES Manual for Navigating a Successful Military Surgical Career" published by Springer. In Chapter 20, "Military Research on a Global Scale," Dr. Caravalho and co-authors, Commander (Dr.) Diego Vicente and Captain (Dr.) Tamara Worlton, provide a historical review of the impact of military medical innovation, the strategic importance and tenets of military medical research, as well as the impact of military medicine on civilian health care.

The Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) has a long history of collaborating with military surgical colleagues and produced the manual for educational and informational purposes.



15TH ANNIVERSARY  
HEROES of  
MILITARY MEDICINE

## Celebrating 15 Years of Heroes of Military Medicine Awards

May 8, 2025 marked an important and especially meaningful milestone: HJM celebrated 15 years hosting the Heroes of Military Medicine Awards (HJM) in our Nation's capital.

Since 2010, HJM has hosted its annual Heroes of Military Medicine Awards to honor those who make significant contributions to military medicine. Our honorees distinguish themselves through excellence and selfless dedication to advancing military medicine.

The 2025 HJM honorees included:



Mr. Sal Gonzalez



Colonel (Doctor)  
Benjamin Donham



Captain (Doctor)  
Matthew Tadlock



Colonel (Doctor)  
Daniel Brown



Captain (Doctor)  
John Iskander



Dr. Troy Akers

- **Ambassador Honoree:** Mr. Sal Gonzalez
- **Army Honoree:** Colonel (Doctor) Benjamin Donham
- **Navy Honoree:** Captain (Doctor) Matthew Tadlock
- **Air Force Honoree:** Colonel (Doctor) Daniel Brown
- **Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service Honoree:** Captain (Doctor) John Iskander
- **Hero of Military Medicine Civilian Honoree:** Dr. Troy Akers





2025 HMM Army Honoree



2025 HMM Navy Honoree



2025 HMM Air Force Honoree



2024 HMM San Antonio Army Honoree



2024 HMM San Antonio Navy Honoree



2024 HMM San Antonio Air Force Honoree

## Heroes of Military Medicine San Antonio Awards

HJF expanded its Heroes of Military Medicine Awards to San Antonio to recognize the exceptional community leaders who advance military medicine in and around the greater San Antonio area. We brought together esteemed military leaders, medical innovators, dedicated practitioners, and appreciative citizens to celebrate the following distinguished individuals:

- Ambassador Honoree:** Corporal Travis Reyes, USMC
- Army Honoree:** Lieutenant Colonel (Doctor) Luis Rohena
- Navy Honoree:** Commander (Doctor) Rachel L. Werner
- Air Force Honoree:** Major (Doctor) Theodore Hart

HJF is extremely grateful for the generous support of the sponsors that make possible the Heroes of Military Medicine Awards.

### HMM San Antonio Honorees 2024 (FY25)



Corporal Travis  
Reyes, USMC



Lieutenant Colonel  
(Doctor) Luis Rohena



Commander (Doctor)  
Rachel L. Werner



Major (Doctor)  
Theodore Hart

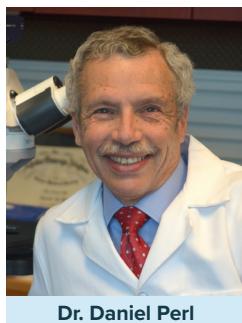


# Spotlight on Programs



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including videos, please scan this code.

## HJF Funds Blast-Induced TBI Study Through Bezos Award



**Dr. Daniel Perl**

HJF was selected for the second time to receive a charitable gift of \$500,000 from retired Admiral William McRaven as part of his 2024 Bezos Courage and Civility Award. The award, which recognizes leaders who aim high and pursue solutions to intractable problems with courage and civility, was given to McRaven for his leadership in special operations as well as his

dedication to educating the children of the fallen veterans' mental health issues. In his donation to HJF, he specified that the funds be used for research "towards understanding the effects of blast exposure."

For this award, retired Admiral William McRaven chose one of the world's leading experts on traumatic brain injury (TBI) in military personnel for this funding: Daniel Perl, M.D., FRSR. Dr. Perl is the Director of the Department of War/Uniformed Services University Brain Tissue Repository and Professor of Pathology (Neuropathology) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences where he has been conducting TBI research for 15 years. This new project, titled, "Unveiling Cellular Mechanisms of Blast-Induced TBI through Advanced Spatial Genomics," will investigate "interface

astroglial scarring," a specific pattern of brain damage he first identified in blast-exposed service members.

The research will focus on how blast waves harm the brain's vital support cells, called astrocytes, which the team believes is a root cause of many of the persistent neurological/behavioral symptoms associated with blast exposure. By identifying the expression of specific genes and genetic pathways that are altered by blast, this work will provide a direct roadmap for creating targeted therapies to help repair astrocytes and restore their vital functions. Ultimately, this research will lead to new therapeutic targets to mitigate long-term issues such as disordered sleep, vision and balance problems, and memory impairment, and it will guide the development of much-needed diagnostic tools to identify this hidden injury in living service members and veterans.

"We stand committed to reaching a better understanding of the biological nature of blast overpressure exposure on the human brain and, in particular, its long-term sequelae. We feel certain that with the knowledge gained through this research, better approaches to diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of these life-altering consequences can be achieved," said Dr. Perl. "My entire team of scientists, technicians, data analyzers, and outreach workers are so thankful for this remarkable recognition of our past work and especially the stimulus this will provide for our future studies."

## Baseline and Longitudinal Assessment Study of EOD Technicians

HJF supported the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in completing the first year of a study titled Baseline and Longitudinal Assessment Study of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Males and Females for Alterations in Symptoms, Intellectual, and Sensory function. The goal of the study is to investigate how subconcussive blast exposure affects brain function differently in male and female EOD technicians across all four military branches.

Led by Principal Investigator, Michael Roy, M.D., MPH, Professor of Medicine, Director of the Division of Military Internal Medicine, and Deputy Director of the Military Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative at USU, the work builds on prior research that focused exclusively on males. The new prospective observational study, which includes both males and females, aims to fill critical gaps by assessing cognitive, sensory, and symptom changes following blast exposures. Advanced tools, like the Black Box Biometrics blast gauge system, and a battery of neurocognitive and physical assessments will collect valuable data. The study has enrolled 93 participants so far—46 women and 47 men—across 26 sites in 15 states, with plans to reach 100 total participants and follow them longitudinally or up to two years.

Despite logistical challenges posed by the dispersed locations of EOD personnel, as well as lower-than-expected rates of significant blast exposure due to strict safety practices, the research team has successfully conducted baseline and post-exposure assessments. Early findings will help clarify sex-based differences in brain impact from blast exposure that could potentially be influenced by neuroendocrine factors such as progesterone levels.



**Dr. Michael Roy**

The study also seeks to identify saliva biomarkers linked to blast effects and track symptoms related to PTSD, concussion, and insomnia. Presentations of preliminary data have been made at several scientific symposia, underscoring the importance of this work in addressing the high suicide rates and mental health risks faced by EOD technicians.



Photo by Tyra Breaux

## CAMRIS Increases Capacity and Capabilities

Driven by the rapid progress of mRNA and monoclonal antibody (mAb) programs in FY 2025, CAMRIS, an HJF subsidiary, significantly increased its capacity and capabilities at the Pilot Bioproduction Facility (PBF), which is a facility owned and operated by Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR).

CAMRIS secured additional Manufacturing Sciences and Technology (MSAT) space, as well as non-viral technology transfers from WRAIR research branches, interagency collaborations, and external mission-enabling programs. Business activities accelerated across all sectors, and they maintained constant Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) suite operations within their dedicated viral suite.

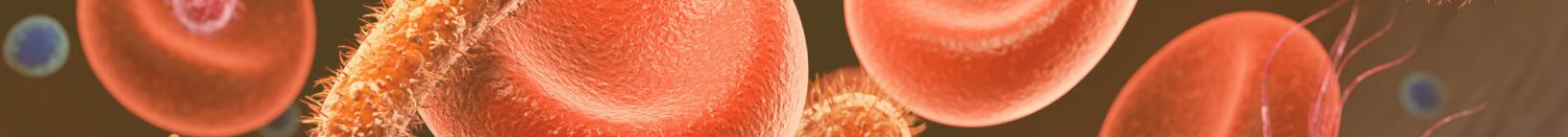
The CAMRIS team consistently demonstrated operational excellence, rigorous quality systems, and best practices in technology transfer as multiple programs cycled through the viral suite. CAMRIS had several achievements encompassing production, formulation, and vialing processes, which included the DARPA-funded Naij (NTI) Alphavirus Vaccine program, producing NTI lots, project runs for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and advancing WRAIR's dengue human infection model.

While cleanroom non-viral and purification areas experienced lighter activity, key programs made significant progress such as WRAIR's Bacterial Diseases Branch/ Diarrheal Diseases Research's three whole cell Shigella vaccines. PBF also collaborated with WRAIR researchers to further develop the tobacco mosaic virus project, integral to WRAIR's malaria research and vaccine platform development, including mRNA, nanoparticles, and soluble proteins.

PBF scientists and operations personnel worked jointly on the formulation and vialing of Eagle's Minimum Essential Medium (EMEM) a diluent for vaccines, and PBF Army's Liposome Formulation with QS21 (ALFQ), both vital technologies that enhance the efficacy of mission critical vaccines. They also coordinated with the Naval Medical Research Center on processing, filling, and stability studies for Falciparum Malaria Protein 14.

They also worked on engineering a DTRA-funded live attenuated *F. tularensis* vaccine, including drug product lyophilization. A key milestone and differentiator was the expansion of PBF's freeze-drying capability, as this process substantially improves vaccine stability in field conditions. They also increased engagement with external clients, which led to more frequent audits that have provided valuable feedback to further refine CAMRIS's quality and operational systems.

Finally, CAMRIS completed a major quality assurance initiative for FY2025 as they transitioned from legacy paper-based systems to an electronic document management system, thereby streamlining GMP documentation and associated training. Throughout the year, they enhanced operational efficiency by adopting SmartsheetGov and growing the project management team.



## ACESO Collaborates on Sepsis Clinical Care

Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection. It annually kills an estimated 11 million people around the world. In the case of military medicine, combat-casualty trauma and related complications often result in a high incidence of severe infections that pose distinct challenges for sepsis care.

HJF's Austere environments Consortium for Enhanced Sepsis Outcomes (ACESO) drives innovation along the continuum of sepsis clinical care towards endotype-based solutions, identifying subsets of patients more likely to respond to targeted treatments. Rapid point-of-care testing (POCT) and low-cost device platforms would greatly facilitate the ability to deploy diagnostic solutions to far-forward military settings.

Phlebotomy performed by trained personnel is critical for patient diagnosis and monitoring of disease, however, this procedure has limitations in resource-constrained settings. Capillary blood collection devices allowing for microphysiological sampling have the potential to alleviate the challenges of traditional phlebotomy. Another company that has developed a novel capillary blood collection device to de-risk this technology for military medicine in military training exercises in the Indo-Pacific region and has also been used on actively deployed hospital ships in partnership with Naval Health Research Command. Self-blood collection samples can be directly applied to point-of-care (PoC) testing enabling rapid diagnosis and facilitating clinical care management.

With another partner, ACESO has developed a micro-volume blood-based proteomic rapid PoC READ DETecT-8 assay that is run on a palm-sized, electrode-based platform simultaneously testing eight markers of inflammation within 10 minutes. READ DETecT-8 can be operated outside a laboratory environment and results are interpreted through validated algorithms to provide the user with critical information to support triage decision-making. The READ DETecT-8 assay was developed with warfighters in mind, with important applications for civilians as well.

The COVID pandemic highlighted the need for rapidly deployable, flexible clinical trials to evaluate novel therapeutics against novel and known pathogens. Platform trials, such as ACESO's PROTECT adaptive platform trial, are a newer type of clinical trial design that improve efficiency over traditional, parallel design randomized controlled trials by allowing for the simultaneous evaluation of multiple investigational products against a shared control arm. To further improve efficiency and maximize likelihood of efficacy, platform trials can incorporate population-enrichment strategies identifying subsets of patients more likely to respond to targeted treatments. The PROTECT trial so far has been deployed in four countries and to date has enrolled over 90 participants specific to one investigational therapeutic product.

## HJF Scientists Publish Paper in *Science Translational Medicine*



Dr. Thembani Mdluli



Dr. Morgane Rolland

New countermeasures for filoviruses, such as Ebola and Marburg, are needed to halt the emergence and spread of ongoing outbreaks. HJF scientists Thembani Mdluli, Morgane Rolland, and others at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research conducted an analysis of a prime boost Ebola vaccine regimen, with a boost that contained immunogens from multiple filoviruses. The researchers found that the immune response was largely specific to Ebola, with limited cross reactivity to Marburg and other filoviruses. The paper, "Ebola virus vaccination elicits Ebola virus-specific immune responses without substantial cross-reactivity to other filoviruses," may help inform countermeasure development to prevent filoviruses.

Dr. Mdluli is a computational biologist in the Viral Genetics & Systems Serology Core laboratory led by Dr. Rolland at WRAIR's Military HIV Research Program. The lab is a multidisciplinary team of scientists who conduct assays and perform computational analyses aimed at deepening our understanding of the evolution of HIV and emerging infectious diseases, including filoviruses such as Ebola, coronaviruses, and flaviviruses.

# Wounded Warrior Project Funds Grant to HJF for TBI Treatment



**Dr. David Williamson**

HJF received funding through a grant from Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) to support the work of the 7 East Brain Injury Medicine/ Neuropsychiatry Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). The 7 East Program is a specialized unit for treating a wide range of traumatic brain injury (TBI) complications, integrating medical, surgical, and behavioral

health care, unique within the Department of War (DoW) for its comprehensive approach.

Per the grant, HJF will hire a psychologist as part of the interdisciplinary team to enhance research and clinical services for patients with TBI. The psychologist will conduct assessments, develop behavioral plans, and support families, aiming to improve patient outcomes and understanding of psychological health.

"The program treats brain injuries of all severities, from mild concussive injuries to severe injuries requiring surgery, combining medical, surgical, and behavioral health care to address the full spectrum of complications from TBI," said Medical Director David Williamson, M.D., a neuropsychiatrist with WRNMMC specializing in brain injury. "The addition of a psychologist will play a crucial role in the interdisciplinary team, conducting psychological assessments, developing treatment plans, providing counseling to patients and families, and contributing to research efforts to identify factors that determine the best outcomes after brain injury."

Dr. Williamson developed this new model of care for wounded warriors with a combination of physical and psychiatric injuries, bringing together a team of specialists of diverse backgrounds in a holistic model. The program has garnered several awards and national recognition as a resource for the most challenging and complex TBI patients. The 7 East Program annually supports 85 to 100 various categories of patients—primarily active-duty military personnel, including Special Operations Forces—their family members, post-9/11 veterans, their caregivers, and family members and addresses complex medical and psychological needs associated with TBI.

"Traumatic brain injury continues to be one of the most pressing and complex challenges facing the warriors we serve. This partnership reflects Wounded Warrior Project's long-term commitment to improving the brain health, behavioral health, and quality of life of post-9/11 veterans—not just through direct programming, but by investing in innovative care models that have the power to transform lives," said Ashley Bunce, director of community partnerships and investments at WWP. "7E's integrated, multidisciplinary approach treats the whole warrior

and their full spectrum of unique needs, supports families, and leads with research and clinical expertise. We have seen 7E's impact first-hand in delivering state-of-the-art services for some of our warriors navigating the most complex injuries. We are proud to be a part of advancing the future of brain health treatment, a priority of WWP."

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) empowers and serves post-9/11 wounded, ill, and injured veterans, along with their families and caregivers, through life-changing programs and strategic partnerships. The grant to HJF and 7 East reinforces WWP's growing commitment to brain health and innovative TBI care. Since 2012, WWP, the nation's largest nonprofit funder of veteran-serving organizations, has given more than \$436 million to 221 military and veteran organizations.

## Where We Work

### Uniformed Services University (main campus)

724

### HJF Home Office

684

### Teleworker

413

### International Locations (including HJFMRI)

380

### Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

153

### Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

119

### Other DoW Clinical

109

### Naval Medical Research Center

78

### HJF Leased Space

76

### San Antonio

64

### Other DoW Labs

29

### Naval Medical Center San Diego

19

### Wright-Patterson AFB

16

### National Institutes of Health

14

### Other Federal

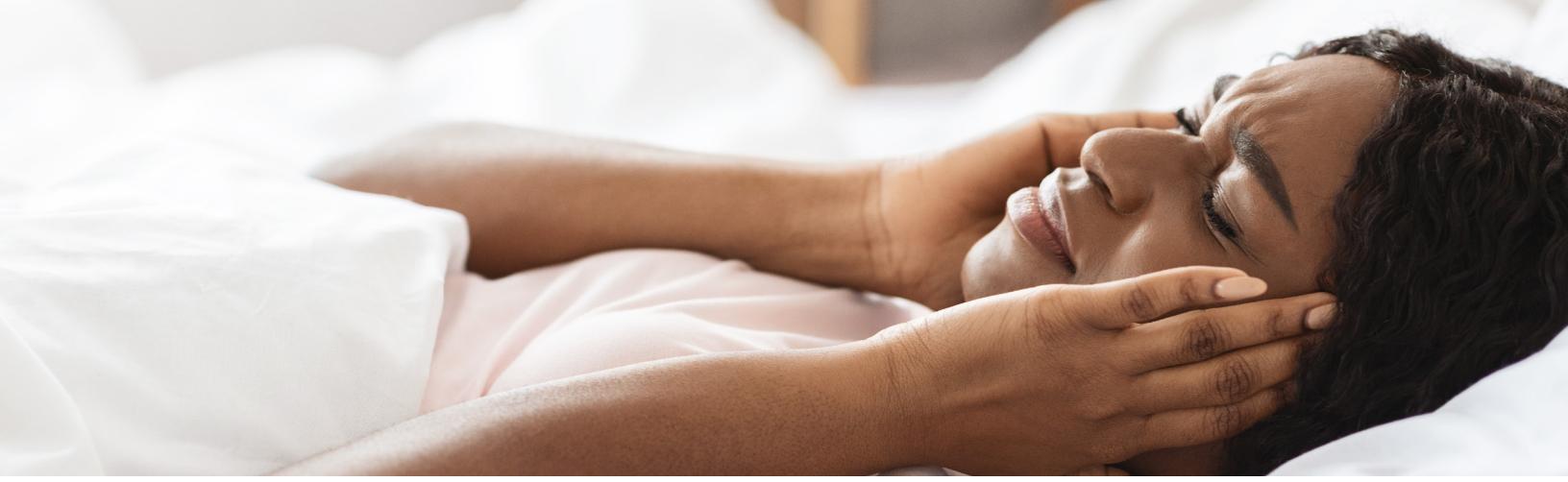
11

### Other Non-federal

9

### Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

8



## HJF Partners on Tech-Driven Women's Pain Management Study

Women—who make up more than half the U.S. population—have been underrepresented in health research. HJF is part of a collaborative team from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USU), Tufts University, and Northwestern University, chosen by The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to help narrow this gap and ensure that women's health needs are addressed in research efforts.

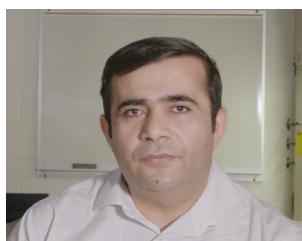
The research initiative, titled "Health Topic 05: Objective and Quantitative Measurement of Chronic Pain in Women," will study why women are more likely to experience a variety of chronic pain conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, and migraines. Researchers believe that when women self-report pain, clinicians often underestimate and undertreat their pain because of the subjective nature of the 1-10 pain rating scale, gender bias, and other stereotypes. These factors frequently delay diagnosis and treatment, prolong suffering, and ultimately erode trust in medical providers, which causes many women to hesitate before seeking further medical care. The lack of biological markers for pain has also been noted as a factor that contributes to lower success rates in clinical trials involving women. Therefore, identifying quantitative biomarkers of pain could advance pain management.

"Currently, clinicians do not have clinically reliable biomarkers to accurately quantify pain," said Dr. Manish Bhomia, Co-Principal Investigator on this project and a senior scientist with HJF. "In this project, we will integrate blood biomarkers and biophysical measurements with machine learning tools to report and treat pain. This research could have an immense impact, offering hope for a future where we can accurately measure and effectively manage women's chronic pain."



**Dr. Manish Bhomia**

The objective of this important research is to identify reliable biomarkers—such as cortisol, dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, inflammation markers, and neurotransmitters—in the interstitial fluid that flows between the cells just below the skin. Researchers will also monitor physical responses, including heart rate, changes in the electrical properties of the skin, and respiration. They will pair these physiological data points with reactions from women enrolled in clinical trials. AI and machine learning modules will then analyze and compile the data to support a proposed wearable device for patients and clinicians. This device will help users effectively track and manage chronic pain, potentially revolutionizing how clinicians diagnose and treat all pain in the future.



### SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

#### **Manish Bhomia**

HJF Senior Staff Scientist

In support of USU School of Medicine



# HJF Scientists Drive Rapid-Response Therapeutic and Vaccine Research

HJF-supported researchers are playing a critical role in a major NIH-funded U19 grant to develop fast, adaptable vaccine and antibody tools to combat deadly viruses with pandemic potential. The PROVIDENT Consortium, led by Dr. Kartik Chandran of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is a collaboration of 13 institutions, including academic, government, and industry partners, focused on three families of viruses—Nairoviridae, Hantaviridae, and Paramyxoviridae—that can spread from animals to humans and cause severe illness, often with no current treatments or vaccines. The goal of PROVIDENT is to build “plug-and-play” blueprints for RNA-based vaccines and antibody therapies that can be rapidly customized when new outbreaks occur. The program uses “prototype pathogens” like Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV), Andes virus, and Menangle virus to develop and test its vaccine platforms, with the hope that these tools can be quickly adapted to related viruses.

HJF research scientist, Stephanie Monticelli, Ph.D., is a co-lead of Project 1, which investigates how these viruses interact with human cells to uncover weak points that vaccines or drugs can target. She also contributes to animal model research to

evaluate vaccine and therapeutic safety and effectiveness. Her work describing the virulence of a viral protein and its role in vascular leak following CCHFV infection was recently published in *Science and Translational Medicine*.

Catalina Florez, Ph.D., an HJF research scientist working on Project 4, which focuses on developing novel monoclonal antibody therapeutics, recently traveled to the country of Georgia with Dr. Monticelli to collect blood samples from individuals who recovered from CCHFV. Partnering with Georgia’s National Center for Disease Control, their work aims to isolate specialized B cells to create virus-fighting antibodies, critical tools in developing effective treatments.

Additional HJF employees that are an integral part of this effort include, Erik O’Brien, M.S., Cecilia O’Brien, M.S., Nicole Josley, M.S., Eric Wilkinson, B.S., Taylor Powell, Sarah Miller, and Kandis Cogliano, M.S.

Through PROVIDENT, HJF scientists are helping to ensure we are better prepared for future outbreaks by building flexible vaccine and antibody platforms that can be rapidly deployed against emerging viral threats.

## HJF Staff Recognized with NIH Director’s Award

A team from the Military Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative (MTBI2), which included HJF staff, recently received the 2024 NIH Director’s Award. The award was presented by Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli, Director of the National Institutes of Health, at a ceremony in October 2024 that took place on the NIH Bethesda campus.

The NIH Director’s Award is presented annually and recognizes superior performance that extends significantly beyond regular duty requirements to fulfilling the NIH mission. The MTBI2 team was cited for the scientific and medical excellence in their article titled “Neuroimaging Findings in US Government Personnel and Their Family Members Involved in

Anomalous Health Incidents,” which was published by *JAMA* (The Journal of the American Medical Association).

The team included the following HJF employees: Yi-Yu Chou, Brian Moore, Anita Moses, Pashtun Shahim, Lauren Stamps, Andre van der Merwe

MTBI2 is a joint federal research organization on a mission to minimize the destructive effects traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) have on U.S. service members. It is the only Department of War organization that conducts clinical and translational research that spans all TBI severities and focuses on acute and subacute phases.



# HJFMRI Helps Boost GEIS-Funded Infectious Disease Surveillance Lab Capacity and Expertise

In Kenya, the U.S. Military's Global Emerging Infections Surveillance (GEIS) program is working to identify and track infectious disease threats through collection of samples from sentinel sites. Scientists conduct rapid pathogen identification and drug resistance analysis at regional laboratories run in collaboration with Kenyan health authorities and local research partners, like the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).

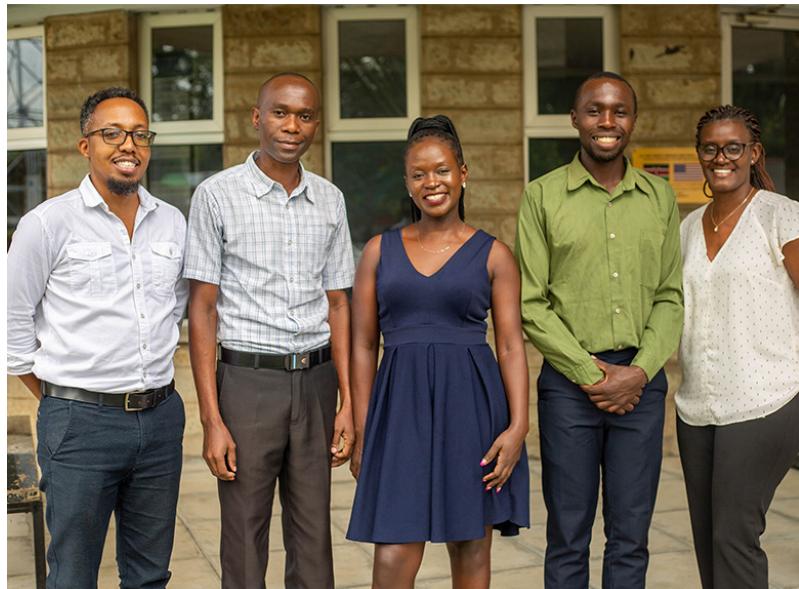
Bolstering local laboratory capabilities and developing the next generation of scientists is critical to the success of collaborative surveillance research in the area, which requires robust systems and well-trained personnel to respond effectively. The Acute Febrile Illness (AFI) Basic Science laboratory in Kisumu, Kenya, has become an important local resource, thanks in part to its involvement in collaborative disease surveillance activities.

The lab receives samples from hospital patients who have AFI, which can be caused by many diseases that have similar presenting signs, ranging in severity from flu to malaria, dengue or Ebola. On receiving the samples, the AFI lab uses broad detection systems to determine the pathogens they're dealing with. With funding from different collaborative programs, the lab has been able to buy robotics to automate workflows to help increase the daily throughput, and to buy new equipment to make sure the facility stays on the leading edge of technology, including whole genome sequencing for pathogen discovery and characterization.

"Before these efforts to increase efficiency, we had to do everything manually—like pipetting and centrifuging—which meant we could only process a few samples a day," said Dr. Beth Mutai, the AFI Basic Science lab manager. "With the robots we've been able to increase sample volume turnaround by a factor of 10, like from 100 to 1,000 samples in a day. And now we handle them inside new biosafety cabinets; that helps protect the people working in the lab."

Mentorship and training are also significant aspects of the collaborative GEIS efforts. The emphasis on junior scientist development ensures a sustainable bench of experts in Kenya who can help drive the country's health systems forward.

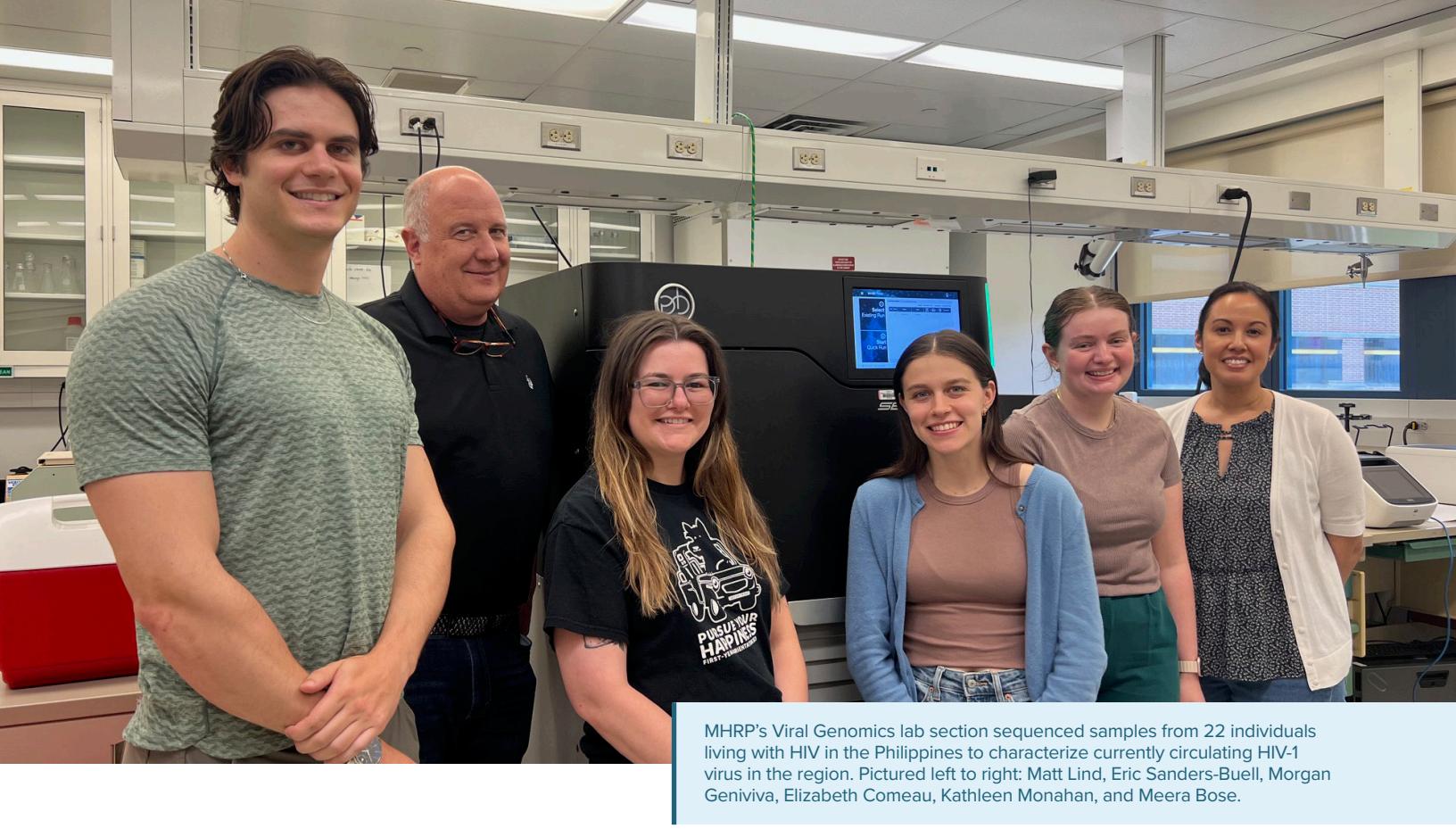
"The expectation is that if you've been mentored, you should also be a mentor and a trainer," said Dr. Mutai, herself a product of the mentorship program, and adds, "It is a responsibility to mentor someone in what you're good at." Dr. Mutai joined the program under the tutelage of veteran scientist, Dr. John Waitumbi.



*Photo Copyright: Sarah Day Smith*

Graduate student Vane Kwamboka is conducting her master's research at the AFI Basic Science Lab, focusing on the genetic evolution of *Leishmania* parasites. She is one of five students currently working on projects at the lab. "I am very thankful to the team for the mentorship, because today, I know I am very lucky, and I know I have learned a lot from this place," Vane said. "Not just learning extractions, the PCRs, the sequencing; I've learned about safety and how to carry myself in the lab."

The AFI Basic Science Lab fosters collaboration between local institutions and international partners, enabling the exchange of data, knowledge and best practices. HJFMRI supports the GEIS surveillance and lab activities through agreements with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) in the U.S. and WRAIR-Africa, headquartered in Nairobi. The longstanding partnership advances science, international health collaboration and health system strengthening, ensuring Kenya and the surrounding region is better prepared to face the evolving landscape of infectious disease.



MHRP's Viral Genomics lab section sequenced samples from 22 individuals living with HIV in the Philippines to characterize currently circulating HIV-1 virus in the region. Pictured left to right: Matt Lind, Eric Sanders-Buell, Morgan Geniviva, Elizabeth Comeau, Kathleen Monahan, and Meera Bose.

## HIV Sequencing Sheds Light on Rapidly Growing Philippines Epidemic

While HIV is declining globally, the Philippines stands in stark contrast, experiencing a 411 percent increase in daily incidence between 2012 and 2023, as reported to the HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines. Now recognized as the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the Western Pacific region, the country is facing a mounting public health challenge with limited data on the virus' regional molecular epidemiology.

The U.S. Military HIV Research Program is collaborating with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), HJF and other partners to conduct a study to characterize HIV-1 viruses currently circulating in the Philippines. Researchers analyzed recent samples (2022-2024) from 22 people living with HIV in the Philippines, revealing findings that could inform both prevention and treatment strategies in the region.

The majority of samples had virus of the CRF01\_AE HIV subtype, which is commonly found in Southeast Asia. Full genome sequencing showed that these sequences formed a distinct clade among known CRF01\_AE sequences, suggesting a single introduction and localized transmission. One participant was found to have a subtype B virus, which is most common in the U.S. and Europe.

Additionally, researchers identified drug mutation resistance in nine of the 22 participants. The deep sequencing technique was able to identify some rare drug resistance mutations and low-level drug resistance in an additional four participants. This insight into a growing epidemic in the INDOPACOM region is increasingly valuable for the U.S. and partner militaries given its strategic geographical location.

This analysis is part of a broader military-to-military HIV prevention, care and treatment initiative supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This collaboration includes MHRP, HJF, the AFP, the Armed Forces Research Institute for Medical Sciences (AFRIMS), and the Department of War HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP).

## Bispecific Antibodies to Mitigate HIV Risk to the Battlefield Blood Supply

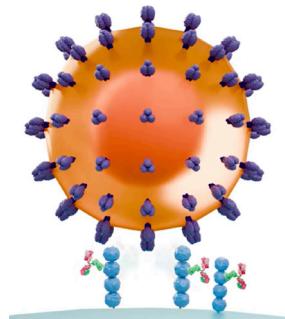
U.S. Military HIV Research Program (MHRP), HJF, and partners completed enrollment in a Phase 1 human trial in Tanzania to evaluate the safety and antiviral activity of a long-acting bispecific antibody, alone and in combination with another potent monoclonal antibody, to combat HIV.

Bispecific antibodies are lab-engineered antibodies designed to target two distinct binding sites on immune cells or virus envelopes. These molecules can neutralize HIV with improved breadth and potency, and they can be used as both preventive and therapeutic countermeasures.

The trial is also exploring fixed dosing and the safety of intramuscular injection to deliver these mAbs, important advantages for future potential use in remote or military settings where medical infrastructure may be limited. These mAbs may be used in geographies strategic to the U.S. military where HIV is highly endemic, including expansion to the Indo-Pacific Command region.

MHRP's long-time collaborator, Tanzania's National Institute for Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Research Center, is conducting the study, called RV584. HJF and WRAIR have been working in Tanzania on countermeasure development for infectious diseases since 2001, and its research is conducted in close collaboration with the Tanzanian government and the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital.

The products being used for the study include 10E8.4/iMab, a bispecific antibody developed by Dr. David Ho's lab at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center. The bispecific antibody is very potent against a wide range of HIV virus variants. In one of the arms of RV584, it is being tested with the broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody (mAb) VRC07-523LS, which was developed at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Vaccine Research Center and has been shown to be active against 96 percent of diverse HIV strains. The trial reached full enrollment in April 2025.



Bispecific antibodies are lab-engineered antibodies designed to target two distinct binding sites on immune cells or virus envelopes. Please scan the QR code to see a brief video about how these novel antibodies can help fight HIV in military populations.

## Two Prostate Cancer Research Awards Given to HJF Principal Investigators

Two principal investigators, both of whom are HJF employees working for the Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR) at USU, each received a \$1.2M award by the Department of War Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs FY24 Prostate Cancer Research Program Idea Development Award program.

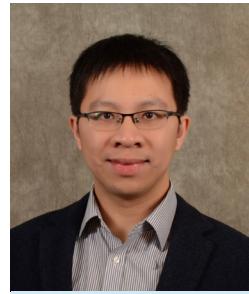
Dr. Leigh Ellis, CPDR Scientific Director and Research Professor, USU Department of Surgery, was selected for the Established Investigator Award for "Development and Validation of an Epigenomic Landscape and Novel Immunotherapy in Prostate Cancer Disparities."



**Dr. Leigh Ellis**

"This grant will fund crucial research from CPDR and our collaborators to better understand the impact of biological variability in prostate cancer based on race and provide a molecular understanding of increased aggressive disease in African American men," said Dr. Ellis.

Dr. Xiaofeng Allen Su, CPDR Principal Investigator and Assistant Research Professor, USU Department of Surgery, was selected for the New Investigator Award for "Investigating the Mechanistic Role and Therapeutic Targeting Cohesin RAD21 in Metastatic Prostate Cancer."



**Dr. Xiaofeng Allen Su**

"Our goal is to uncover how RAD21 drives metastatic prostate cancer progression through its role in DNA damage repair, chromatin dynamics and genomic instability," said Dr. Su. "At the same time, we aim to develop novel diagnostic and therapeutic tools to improve patient outcomes."

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States. It has a notably high incidence among military veterans and active-duty personnel.

## Studying Blast Exposure and the Brain

Over the past two decades, awareness of the potential health consequences associated with blast exposure has steadily increased among warfighters, leaders, medical professionals, policy makers, and journalists. According to the Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence, more than half a million service members have been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) since 2000, with many cases linked to blast exposure. Such exposure can result from a variety of sources, including improvised explosive devices during deployment and certain weapons systems used in training and operational environments. While the Department of War (DoW) has supported extensive research into the health effects of blast exposure, a universally accepted clinical threshold scale for assessing brain health impacts has not yet been established.

In 2024, HJF began supporting a four-year collaborative project developed by subject matter experts at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research-West, the Uniformed Services University, and the Institute for Defense Analyses. The goal of this initiative is to combine data from several studies and clinical data into a single database called BATTLE (Blast Injury Clinical Threshold Scale) with the objective to determine the clinical threshold of blast exposure. The team has already conducted a comprehensive environmental scan of possible data sources and identified more than 40 possible data sources and has started the process of securing agreements for data contribution. Potential data sources include studies of blast overpressure during heavy weapons training such as the INVICTA (Investigating



training associated blast pathology) and I-TAB (Investigating the Neurologic Effects of Training Associated Blast (I-TAB) studies, clinical treatment programs (such as the NICoE 4-week Intensive Outpatient Program), and additional military-relevant medical and operational data sources (such as from specific operational commands and the Military Health System Data Repository). Importantly, this project will identify blood-based biomarker signatures of blast exposures by analyzing samples collected for previous studies including the INVICTA and I-TAB Studies. HJF's experienced team facilitated complex regulatory approvals to ensure the highest standards of protection and security of this important data.

Over the next several years, the team will continue to develop and expand the BATTLE Database by developing a nuanced operational common data element framework that enables data harmonization across disparate data sources and serves as an enduring resource for the DoW. Data will be analyzed using state-of-the-art advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning and will result in the development of a series of dose-response curves associated with exposure to blast. These findings will then be used to generate evidenced-based real-world, actionable recommendations for line officers, medical providers, and policy makers. These recommendations are expected to enhance service member health and readiness, inform responses to Congressional safety mandates, guide treatment by military and Veterans Affairs medical providers, and help determine return-to-duty decisions following blast exposures.

*This work was supported by MTEC-24-01-MPAI-041 to The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF). Any opinions, views, or assertions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of HJF, National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), Military Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative (MTBI2), the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Department of War, Department of Army/Navy/Air Force, or the U.S. Government. Material has been reviewed by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. There is no objection to its presentation and/or publication.*

## San Antonio Repository Serves as Unique Resource for Medical Research

The San Antonio Repository, which is maintained by HJF staff at Brooke Army Medical Center, continues to play a key role in supporting infectious disease research for the Department of War. The longitudinal study, which collects biological specimens from HIV-positive individuals, provides a unique resource due to the diverse and healthcare-accessible military population it represents.

Since 1986 it has provided continuous support of the Natural History Study of HIV in DoD beneficiaries. It traces its roots back to an early 1980s U.S. Air Force HIV Surveillance

Program that was initiated in response to the HIV epidemic. Currently the repository maintains approximately 750,000 samples.

In October 2024, the San Antonio Repository expanded its role. In addition to its ongoing work, it is now the central biorepository for processing and storing specimens from four major military treatment facilities: Brooke Army Medical Center, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, and Naval Medical Center San Diego.

# Researchers Conduct Clinical Trial of MDMA-Assisted Therapy for Service Members with PTSD

HJF will be supporting a Principal Investigator at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the execution of a first of its kind clinical trial of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine-assisted therapy (MDMA-AT) for active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The study aims to address key questions of safety, efficacy, and durability of MDMA-AT in military populations to inform policy, procedures, and clinical implementation. The study is supported by a \$4.9M grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) under a grant mechanism enabled by Section 723 of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, which authorized the Department of War to support studies of psychedelic-assisted therapies for service members with PTSD and/or traumatic brain injury.

PTSD is the most common psychiatric cause of medical discharges for active-duty service members. Nearly 10,000 service members with PTSD are medically discharged annually, joining the 1.1 million veterans who receive service-connected disability for PTSD with annual healthcare costs of up to \$1.35 billion.

Approximately half of individuals with PTSD suffer from comorbidities, such as depression and insomnia, that can worsen PTSD severity and increase the risk of suicidality. Rates of completed suicide are 4-7 times higher in those with PTSD compared to the general population. Overall, PTSD contributes substantially to morbidity and mortality in both active-duty service members and veterans.

Currently available medications are less efficacious than trauma-focused psychotherapies for PTSD. The antidepressants sertraline and paroxetine are the only two medications approved by the FDA to treat PTSD, however, their low to moderate efficacy when used alone has led them to be considered second-line treatments.

MDMA-AT was the only medication-assisted therapy to have a statistically significant effect for the treatment of PTSD, with 67-71 percent no longer diagnosable after treatment. The treatment effects are durable long-term, with 74 percent still no longer diagnosable with PTSD 3.8 years post-treatment. Compared to Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), currently the most well-studied, gold-standard, first-line treatments for PTSD, where 13-56 percent drop out of treatment, only 4 percent drop out of MDMA-AT, suggesting more patients may stay engaged in treatment with MDMA-AT.

With these findings, MDMA-AT was designated a Breakthrough Therapy by the FDA in 2017 and was the first psychedelic to submit a New Drug Application to the FDA in 2024. Given the potential high efficacy of MDMA-AT in the setting of inadequate current first-line treatments and high numbers of medical discharges for PTSD, MDMA-AT may have the potential to remit PTSD in service members where other treatments have failed, avert medical discharges, and return service members to duty.

A wide range of research initiatives extending beyond HIV—prostate disease studies, sepsis outcomes, acute respiratory infection investigations, and more—highlight the vital role of the repository in advancing medical knowledge and improving patient care. A diverse network of government and academic institutions, including the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health, rely on the repository for their research. Additionally, numerous universities also collaborate with the San Antonio Repository, including the Broad Institute, Cornell University, Emory University, SUNY Upstate Medical University, the University of California at San Francisco, and the University of Minnesota.





# Leadership



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Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Leidholm

# Council of Directors

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Sid Ashworth, M.B.A.



Ronald Blanck, D.O., LTG,  
USA (Ret.)



Debbie James



John ('Jay') Paxton, Jr., Gen.,  
USMC (Ret.)



Thomas W. Weston, Jr., C.P.A.

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REP Salud Carbajal (CA-24)  
HASC Minority Member



The Honorable Jonathan  
Woodson, M.D., MG, USAR (Ret.)

## Emeriti Directors



Philip A. Odeen



The Honorable John H.  
Dressendorfer

## In Memoriam: The Honorable Beverly Byron



With profound sadness this year we marked the passing of the Honorable Beverly Byron, Director Emerita on HJF's Council of Directors (CoD). Former Congresswoman Byron served on the HJF CoD from 1996 to 2020.

As Congresswoman, she focused largely on military and national security issues, ultimately chairing the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Compensation. Byron's career also included chairing the boards of CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield, Maryland's Technology Development Corporation, and the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1993, President Bush appointed her to serve on the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. She was also the original sponsor of national "Rails-to-Trails" legislation that helped expand the nationwide network of hiking and recreational trails.

"Beverly Byron was a national figure, widely respected for her passionate work in support of our Nation's military," said Joseph Caravalho, Jr., HJF President and CEO. "We were immensely privileged to benefit from her deep knowledge and vast experience. HJF considers her integral to the fabric of our organization. She was part of our family, and we will miss her dearly."

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MG, U.S. (Ret.)**

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Chief Executive Officer



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Executive Vice President,  
Chief Operating Officer



**William (Buddy) B. Kinner, J.D.**

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**Corey Hastings, M.B.A., C.P.A.**

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**Merlin Robb, M.D.**

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Research Administration and  
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**Marc De Serio, M.S.**

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Chief Information Officer



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**4** Military Vets on  
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**Sandhya Vasan, M.D.**  
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Global Infectious Diseases  
Research

[hjf.org/leadership](http://hjf.org/leadership)

## Global Presence





# Financials



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2nd Class Kelsey J. Hockenberger

## Additional Funding Sources (Over \$50,000)

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL	KNOWESIS INC	ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE INC
AIR FORCE DISTRICT WASHINGTON	LEIDOS	RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE	MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
ALLIANCE FOR CLINICAL TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY FOUNDATION	MDC STUDIO INC.	SANOFI PASTEUR
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND	MICROCURES	SNA INTERNATIONAL LLC
AUROBAC THERAPEUTICS SAS	NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION	STRATUSCENT INC
BATTELLE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENTREPRENEURS	SYNGENTA LIMITED
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE INC	NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE	THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE TULANE EDUCATIONAL FUND
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CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION	NATIONAL HEART LUNG AND BLOOD INSTITUTE	THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
CERAMEDIX HOLDING LLC	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES	THE GENEVA FOUNDATION
CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	THE METIS FOUNDATION
COGENT BIOSCIENCES INC	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES	THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSTIY	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH	TRACY'S KIDS
CREARE	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE	TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE
DARTMOUTH HITCHCOCK CLINIC	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEURO DISORDERS AND STROKE	TRUSTEES OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY
DEFENSE POW MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY	NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM	TRUSTEES OF TUFTS COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS	UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER	NATIONAL STRATEGIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
EMORY UNIVERSITY	NAVAL MEDICAL LOGISTICS COMMAND	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY (HADEA)	NEUROLUMEN LLC	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE
FEDERAL CONNECT LLC	OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH	UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
FOUNDATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY RESEARCH	OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER	OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
GLACIER SUPPORT SERVICES LLC	PARSONS GLOBAL SERVICES	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
GLAXOSMITHKLINE BIOLOGICALS SA	PATH	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
HELMOLTZ CENTER FOR INFECTION RESEARCH GMBH	PATIENT CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH INSTITUTE	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH
HENRY M JACKSON FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MILITARY MEDICINE	PENN STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
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HUMANETICS	REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH ACQUISITION ACTIVITY
INTRAVACC		VIRTICI LLC
INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND		WESTAT
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY		WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT
		YALE UNIVERSITY

# Consolidated Statement of Activities

Year ended Sept. 30, 2025 | Preliminary, Unaudited

## REVENUES

Contributions	\$ 1,215,260
Grants and contracts	604,560,010
Investment income	9,213,682
Licensing fees and other	1,724,515
Net assets released from restrictions and transfers	—
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>616,713,467</b>

## EXPENSES

Program services	
Research grants and contracts	560,772,497
Other program activities	36,181,205
Endowment and similar programs	2,902,019
Education projects	1,001,246
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>600,856,967</b>
Total support services	7,873,599
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>608,730,566</b>

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>7,982,901</b>
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<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>179,659,929</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 187,642,830</b>

# Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As of Sept. 30, 2025 | Preliminary, Unaudited

## ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 25,404,341
Grants and contracts receivable, net	133,601,011
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	14,431,252
Investments	88,525,152
Property and equipment, net	13,162,615
Right of use assets, operating	29,804,084
Goodwill & intangible assets	2,587,686
Other assets	13,745,831
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 321,261,972</b>

## LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 52,119,994
Accrued leave and benefits	30,985,098
Refundable advances	6,523,650
Lease liability	39,339,566
Other payables	4,650,834
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>133,619,142</b>

## NET ASSETS

Without donor restriction	131,001,201
With donor restriction	56,641,629
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>187,642,830</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; net assets</b>	<b>\$ 321,261,972</b>

*The financial information expressed here represents preliminary unaudited statements for fiscal year 2025.*

*For a complete copy of the latest financial statement, contact:*

*Chief Financial Officer*

*The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine  
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