



institute for
SCIENCE AND HEALTH
empowering research for a healthier tomorrow

2009
ANNUAL REPORT



“To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle requires creative imagination and marks real advances in science.”

-Albert Einstein

Perseverance and Promise

The economic challenges of 2008 continued to test the resolve of individuals, organizations and communities in 2009. The Institute for Science and Health was no exception. As we look back on a year defined by an economy that demanded ever-increasing dedication and creativity to achieve success, and the loss of Alan Willer, our beloved COO, we remain staunchly optimistic – encouraged by our accomplishments to date, and those yet to come.

“Despite the fact that these are very challenging times for non-profit organizations,” states Board Chairman Dr. Roger Jenkins, “we are using this as an opportunity to refine our organizational focus.” Moving forward, the Institute has committed to focusing on two key areas for research efforts. These areas are Gastrointestinal Diseases (with pancreatic cancer as the lead health issue) and Environmental Impact on Health (with autism as the lead health issue).

Our commitment to gastrointestinal diseases starts with the sobering reality that these diseases, which include colorectal, stomach and pancreatic cancer, are often detected too late for effective treatment. This is especially true for pancreatic cancer, which has a one-year survival rate of less than 20% and a five-year survival rate of less than 4%. Despite the acute need for early detection and effective treatments, this remains one of the most under-funded and under-researched cancers.

The need for focus on the environment stems from the fact that exposure to environmental “toxins” (naturally occurring or man-made chemicals present all around us) that can act as triggers for several illnesses in a susceptible population, including autism, are on the rise. Exposures can be from air, water, food and ordinary materials that we handle. As Dr. Jenkins affirms, “Because we all have to breathe, airborne toxins are the most difficult kinds of exposure to control.” Through the Environmental Impact on Health Program Initiative, the Institute is supporting progressive research efforts aimed at understanding a variety of different conditions derived from exposure and sensitivity to chemicals many of us encounter on a daily basis.

With new focus and a spirit of perseverance, we remain steadfast in our goal of supporting innovative research and groundbreaking advances in treating the causes of illness, not just the symptoms. We also continue our commitment to the concept of Donor Choice, which allows donors to choose one of our current Program Initiatives, or to establish a new Initiative in accordance with their particular areas of interest. The personal involvement of our donors enables an international ensemble of the best and brightest researchers to make a real and lasting difference in the battle against illness and suffering.

Progress with a purpose

Despite a year of economic challenges, the Institute continued to support innovative, meaningful research. While holding our combined administrative and fundraising costs to only 17.1 percent, we awarded nearly \$0.8 million in research grant fundings.

The promising research we are supporting includes:

- A study on diagnosis of early pancreatic cancer using novel immuno-markers, led by Dr. Banke Agarwal, an investigator at St. Louis University School of Medicine. One of the major factors contributing to the grim prognosis for pancreatic cancer patients has been difficulty in diagnosing the cancer early enough for potentially curative treatment.

This has prompted Dr. Agarwal's group to try more novel markers to aid in diagnosis. "In a systematic evaluation of these markers for diagnosis of pancreatic cancer," Dr. Agarwal reports, "we found that combined evaluation of cytologic characteristics along with staining of these immuno-markers makes it possible to diagnose pancreatic cancer in endoscopic-ultrasound fine-needle aspirates with 90% accuracy in cases where a definitive diagnosis of cancer was impossible based on cytology alone." In addition, pancreatic cancer could be reliably excluded when both these markers were negative.

"If they live up to their promise," Dr. Agarwal says, "these immuno-markers can significantly improve our ability to diagnose pancreatic cancer early in its onset and thereby potentially improve patient outcomes."

- A study on the influence of cigarette smoke-induced effects on offspring airway reactivity and immune responsiveness, led by Dr. Judith Zelikoff at the New York University School of Medicine, Tuxedo, NY. The study is yielding intriguing results, which suggest that exposure to cigarette smoke during pregnancy produces enhanced airway responsiveness that could be related to chronic airway diseases such as asthma. The data further suggest that such adverse effects may be more pronounced in females.

The research involved exposing pregnant mice to cigarette smoke in both a whole, unfractionated state, and then in a gas-only (vapor) phase.

Dr. Zelikoff states, "Chronic airway diseases like asthma can have a serious economic and emotional impact over one's lifetime. For moms who want their children to be born healthy and to have a healthy future, cigarette smoking is an easily modifiable risk factor."

Inviting involvement

Throughout 2009, we offered a variety of avenues for investors or benefactors to become involved in research, including:

Philanthropy, Foundations through the Institute, Funds at the Institute, Venture capital investments, Corporate grants, Corporate social responsibility programs

These options continue to encourage donor involvement and support. To enable individuals to donate with confidence, we have also taken steps to ensure that our online donations system is in compliance with current government regulations.

In 2010 we will further invite the involvement of the public, and potential benefactors, through a new Web site sub-domain. This microsite will have a community focus, with a stated purpose of presenting news and information for patients, families, friends and the future.

Site visitors will be able to learn more about what the Institute for Science and Health is, and what our organization does. Information will be presented in accessible language, with the purpose of reaching into the community and connecting people with our mission, events, research and advancements. Visitors will find details on upcoming events, and recaps of past events, along with thought-provoking and inspiring articles.

Establishing dedicated support

The Institute and the medical research community are grateful for the support of donors who empower causes important to them, through foundations and funds that benefit from their name and donations. This support is helping to improve health and lives of individuals throughout the world. Our current foundations and funds include:

The Adrian Peterson Foundation, The Dorothea McGuire Foundation, The Gary Baxter Second Line of Defense Foundation, The Jason McKie Foundation, The Leon Hall Foundation, The Oshiomogho Atogwe I Am Foundation, The Autoimmune Diseases Fund, The Environmental Impact on Health Fund, The Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, The Youth Health and Development Fund, The Alan N. Willer Memorial Endowment Fund

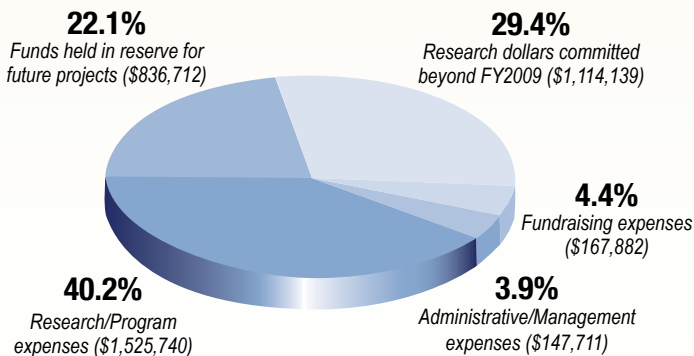
Financial responsibility and fiscal status

As in previous years, the Institute for Science and Health adhered to the practice of optimum efficiency for research portfolio management and administration, to maximize the financial resources available for the ultimate cause. Through our Donor Choice program, our benefactors have the option to target their donations to one of our current Program Initiatives, or to establish an initiative that reflects their interest. They are also welcome to extend their involvement beyond financial support, and to track the progress of the research they help make possible.

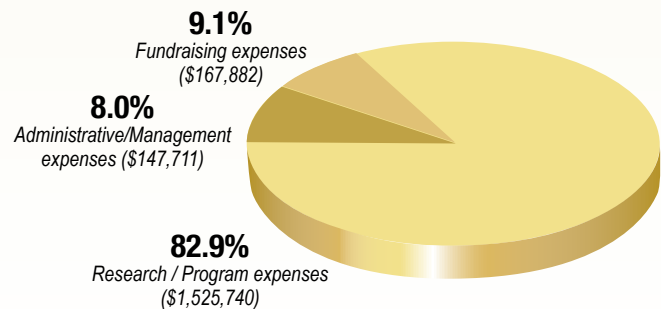
Our unique approach to the process of designating and distributing the funding donors entrust to us is rooted in a belief that integrity is a fundamental, not only for proper stewardship of resources, but also for meaningful research outcomes. Research funds are granted using Rubicon, the Institute’s proven model of operations. Before requesting research proposals, the Institute amasses sufficient financial resources to ensure program viability and project continuity. This maintains the objectivity of the selection process and prevents any outside influences from contaminating the research process or results. This safeguard also requires the Institute to hold and invest committed funds until their distribution, sometimes over a period of years, in accordance with the planned timelines of ongoing research projects. Therefore, a significant amount of the net assets recorded for fiscal year-end 2009 are already committed for ongoing or future research projects:

To best illustrate the Institute’s financial status and statements, and properly portray the Institute’s stability, allocations are presented both relative to FY2009 total assets and relative to FY2009 total expenses. The Institute’s “overhead” rate (cumulative administrative and fundraising expenses) is expressed as the proportion of those expenses relative to the total expenses for the fiscal year.

Net Assets – \$3,418,290 (End of year FY2008)
Total Income – \$373,894 (FY2009)
Total Expenses – \$1,841,333 (FY2009)
Net Assets – \$1,950,851 (End of year FY2009)



Allocation per Cumulative Total Assets (FY2009)



Allocation per Total Expenses (FY2009)

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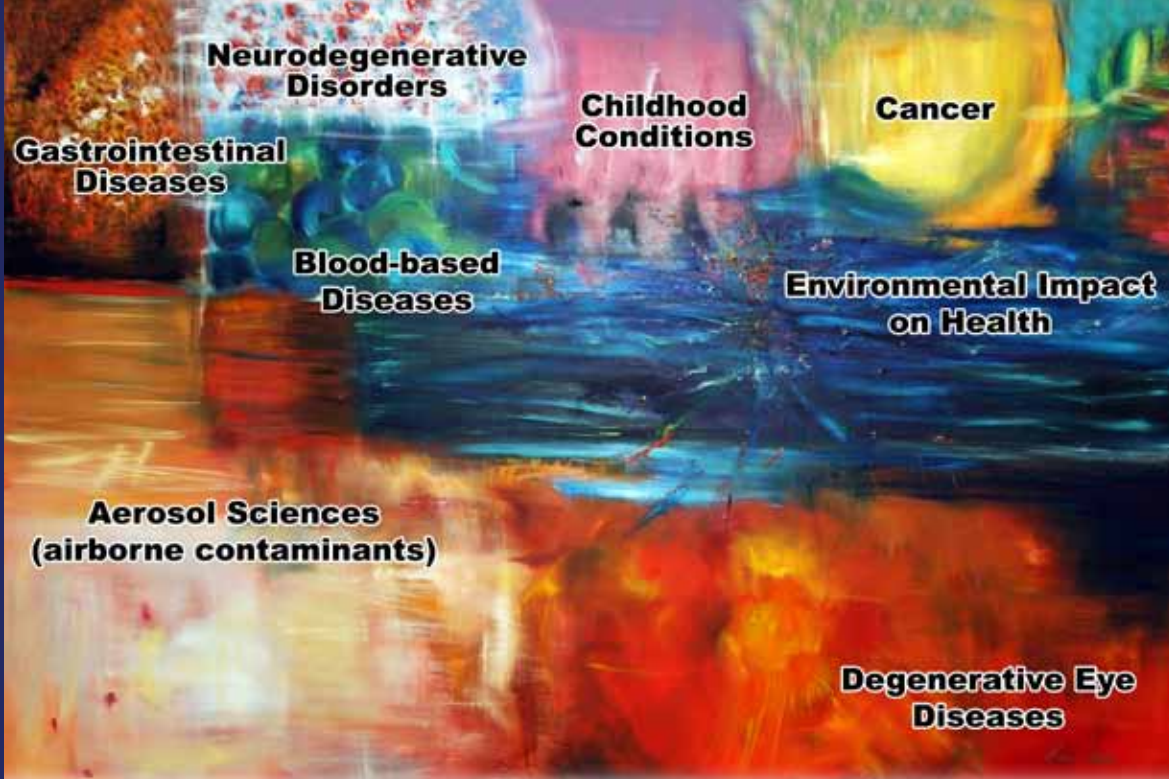
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“Hope Abounds”

This vivid and involving painting, created for the Institute for Science and Health by St. Louis artist Eileen Gale Mitchell, portrays hope for the future as we empower ourselves, our neighbors, and the health-science research community to perform necessary work to build a healthier tomorrow. The imagery represents all that is the Institute – our outreach, our programs, our vision – with regions symbolic of selected research program areas integrated into a single focus: *our mission.*

His memory is our inspiration

As we journey into a new year, we carry in our hearts the spirit of Alan Willer, a pillar of the Institute and a colleague with an unflinching belief that better times lay ahead. It was the cornerstone of his dedication to our mission, and the inspiration that made us all stronger. In the words of Dr. Jenkins, “Alan’s loss was a terrible blow, but clearly he would want us to carry on in the same tradition of sound science and good business practices, to maximize value to those who entrust us with their donations.” With every success, we will remember the determination and optimism that is his legacy, and our cherished gift.



OUR MISSION

*The Institute for Science
and Health is making
possible a healthier
tomorrow through the
power of research that
leads to early diagnosis,
targeted therapies, and
cures for health issues
affecting millions.*



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