

Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment

# ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019



**Andy Hill CARE Fund**  
Washington's Cancer Research Endowment





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## Promoting Cancer Research to Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Washington

The Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund, created by the state legislature in 2015, is a bold public-private partnership that incentivizes additional investment by securing private and non-state matching funds to maximize the state's investment in cancer research. The CARE Fund aims to improve health outcomes by advancing transformational research in the prevention and treatment of cancer.







## 2018–2019 Highlights

The CARE Fund continues to advance cancer research in Washington through its Distinguished Researchers and Breakthrough Research grant programs. This year, seven new grants were awarded to aid recruitment efforts and to support innovative cancer research projects.

### CARE Fund Grant Awards

Distinguished Researchers grants (\$500,000 per recruitment) to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Institute for Systems Biology helped support five world-class researchers newly recruited to Washington State this past year.

Breakthrough Research grants were awarded to the Institute for Systems Biology (Principal Investigator: Dr. James Heath) and to the University of Washington (Principal Investigator: Dr. André Lieber) to support research efforts to find the next big discovery in cancer research and improve health outcomes. The study led by Dr. Heath aims to formalize early detection strategies of recurrent cancer and then carry out a clinical trial designed to intercept recurrence of cancer that is in remission (prior to clinical symptoms) through the design and administration of personalized, tumor-specific vaccines. The project led by Dr. Lieber aims to increase the efficacy of cancer treatments by improving the penetration of cancer drugs in ovarian cancer with the use of junction openers. Breakthrough Research grants are funded up to \$750,000 in the first year and are eligible for up to \$3 million per year for four additional years if the research continues to demonstrate progress and significance.

### 2019 Legislative Session

There were two significant developments for the CARE Fund during the 2019 Legislative Session. Through the new tax on vaping products, the CARE Fund now has a dedicated revenue source. Fifty percent of revenues generated by the tax is allocated to the CARE Fund, up to \$10 million per year. Foundational Public Health Services will receive 50% of vaping products tax revenue plus the remainder above \$10 million allocated to the CARE Fund. Lastly, the legislature affirmed its commitment to cancer research by repealing the CARE Fund's previous statutory sunset provision. The repeal allows the CARE Fund to continue its grantmaking to promote cancer research and improve the quality of life for the people of Washington beyond July 1, 2025.

### Strategic Plan

A [strategic plan](#) to guide the CARE Fund's work for the next two years was developed and approved by the CARE Fund Board of Directors. With dedicated revenue and a repeal of the CARE Fund's sunset provision, the CARE Fund will be able to carry out its strategic plan and operate with greater certainty for long-term impact from grant initiatives to advance cancer research and improve health outcomes in Washington.



# Organizational Direction from Strategic Plan (July 1, 2019–June 30, 2021)

With input from the public, organizational assessment interviews, and benchmarking against similar programs nationwide, the CARE Fund developed a strategic plan that prioritizes three key strategies to guide the CARE Fund's work for the next two years.



Targeted Funding

Informed by national and regional experts and with the intent to more effectively and comprehensively produce a greater statewide benefit, the CARE Fund will begin developing targeted funding opportunities to focus on high-priority research areas and cancer disparities. One or more targeted funding opportunities is planned for Winter 2020.



Organizational  
Sustainability

The CARE Fund will continue to strengthen and establish collaborative efforts with community leaders and other stakeholders. The CARE Fund will deepen existing partnerships and explore potential new partnerships to leverage state funding to advance cancer research and improve health outcomes.



Governance  
Optimization

The CARE Fund will continue to adopt robust governance practices that support broad engagement of its board members, expand geographic diversity in board composition, and establish a succession plan for staff and board members to ensure continuity and functionality through transitions.

# Grantee Highlights

The CARE Fund is proud to support the recruitment and research of world-class cancer researchers in Washington. Two of these researchers are Dr. Heather Greenlee from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Dr. James Heath from the Institute for Systems Biology.



**HEATHER GREENLEE, ND, PHD, MPH**  
**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

Dr. Greenlee is a population scientist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center with clinical training in Naturopathic Medicine and a doctorate in epidemiology. Her research focuses on obesity in cancer survivors and the use of integrative therapies to complement conventional cancer treatments.

In her first year, Dr. Greenlee opened the Integrative Medicine Clinic at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. She and her clinical staff work with cancer patients to utilize a holistic approach through mind body practices, natural products, and lifestyle modifications alongside conventional cancer treatments. Some integrative approaches include, yoga, meditation, and acupuncture to help decrease cancer treatment side effects, improve quality of life, and improve overall well-being. Dr. Greenlee has also spearheaded an initiative with the Society for Integrative Oncology to develop evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the use of integrative therapies among cancer patients and survivors as a complement to conventional cancer treatments.

In addition to serving as medical director for the Integrative Medicine Clinic, Dr. Greenlee has developed research collaborations, including as a co-investigator on a study of diet and physical activity interventions for Latino cancer survivors in central Washington's Yakima Valley.



**JAMES HEATH, PHD**  
**Institute for Systems Biology**

Dr. Heath was recruited to serve as President at the Institute for Systems Biology, a non-profit biomedical research organization. The Institute's cross-disciplinary approach to solve today's most pressing problems is evidenced in Dr. Heath's research programs.

Dr. Heath's research program encompasses three areas: 1) cancer immunotherapy, 2) protein catalyzed capture agents, synthetic molecules that bind proteins like antibodies, and 3) development of multi-dimensional single cell measurement technologies to better understand the systems biology of disease.

His CARE-funded Breakthrough Research project, *Proactive Cancer Immunotherapies for Initial and Recurrent Disease*, aims to significantly reduce the chance of disease recurrence for cancer patients in remission through the combination of early detection of recurrent disease prior to the emergence of clinical symptoms through deep molecular phenotyping of the patient, coupled with proactive vaccine strategies. The use of these technologies in developing personalized medicine and making custom-designed therapies for neoantigens patient-specific will be central for the future of cancer treatment.

# Public-Private Partnership Results

(July 1, 2015–June 30, 2019)

33 Grant Applications  
Requested

**\$143**  
Million

Grants  
Awarded

**11**

Non-State Dollars  
Matched Grant  
Awards More Than

**4:1**

State Funding  
Received Since 2016

**\$14**  
Million

## CARE Fund Board

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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

*Organizational affiliation is for identification purposes only*



Spokane-based Empire Health Foundation (EHF) serves as Program Administrator for the CARE Fund. EHF is responsible for working with expert scientific review panels to provide independent evaluation of grant applications and administer grants to fund cancer research.



# Financial Summary

As of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the CARE Fund had future grant payment obligations of up to \$17.1 million for the CARE Fund's 11 active grants. This amount does not include future grantmaking or administrative costs. Of the 11 active grants, seven new grants were awarded during FY19, which represents commitments of \$5.3 million and \$4.7 million over the next two years respectively. These multi-year commitments are conditioned upon demonstration of meeting research program milestones.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY (UNAUDITED)

Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019)

Revenues	
State Appropriation <sup>1</sup>	\$4,000,000
Non-State Income	\$186,896
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,186,896</b>
Expenses	
Empire Health Foundation (Program Administrator) <sup>2</sup>	\$500,000
CARE Administration (WA State Services)	\$22,265
CARE Fund Account Management Fees	\$31,543
Grant Award Payments <sup>3, 4</sup>	\$300,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$853,808</b>

**1.** The legislature is authorized to appropriate up to \$10 million per year. In Fiscal Year 2019, \$4 million was appropriated by the legislature. Since its inception through FY19, the CARE Fund has received \$14 million in state appropriations.

**2.** The Program Administrator accounts for approximately 12.5% of the state appropriated amount and includes the cost of independent scientific grant reviews and program operations. A full appropriation of \$10 million in FY19, as authorized by statute, would not have increased the administrator cost.

**3.** The first grant award payment (\$100,000 each) for the three Distinguished Researchers in Cohort 2 began in FY19. An additional \$1.2 million in grant payments will be made over the course of the grant period.

**4.** Two Breakthrough Research grants and two Distinguished Researchers (Cohort 3) grants were awarded in FY19. Initial grant award payments to the recipients will begin in FY20 and are not reflected in this summary.



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*The Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund is named in honor of State Senator Andy Hill who was a dedicated legislator and public champion of cancer research. He lost his battle with cancer at the age of 54. The CARE Fund carries on his legacy of promoting cancer research and ensuring access to scientific advancements.*