When we join together, we can achieve what others have only dreamed of.

Read on to learn how your partnership in 2021 fueled important new scientific strides — and take a look at what we see coming next.
A Message from President and Director Dr. Tom Lynch

It was a remarkable year. Yes, 2021 was hard. But together, as a community, we worked to bring Fred Hutch, Seattle, the state of Washington and the world through the pandemic while never taking our eyes off the goal of ending suffering from cancer.

The pandemic has required us to dig deep and find ways to work and connect with each other. We learned to do our research in a way that keeps each other safe and shows our commitment to community. The exceptional people who work at Fred Hutch and your support made it possible for us to continue to enroll patients in clinical trials, make advances and share our findings with the world.

We all can feel pride in what we accomplished. Our scientific discoveries continued to be extraordinary across the board—in cancer, virology, prevention and basic sciences. The Steam Plant has come into its own; I’m always energized when I see our computational biologists working next to our immunotherapy researchers.

We were joined by 13 new faculty, each of whom brings new energy and focus to our mission. Half are from groups that are historically underrepresented in cancer research. We also saw outstanding contributions from our trainees and graduate students. In fact, one of the most important findings of the year came from then-graduate student Dr. Allie Greaney and postdoctoral fellow Dr. Tyler Starr from the Bloom Lab and grad student Meghan Garrett from the Overbaugh Lab, who showed how mutations in SARS-CoV-2 allow the virus to avoid detection by antibodies.

Overbaugh Lab, who showed how mutations in SARS-CoV-2 allow the virus to avoid detection by antibodies. That is just one example of how we contributed to the pandemic effort. Trials done at our COVID-19 Clinical Research Center, which demonstrated the value of antivirals and antibody treatments, are another.

I can’t overstate how critical your support was. Federal grants fund about 70% of the science we do. That means 30% is supported by people motivated to see an end to suffering from cancer, the elimination of viral diseases and equity in health outcomes. You made a profound difference to our scientists and our mission.

I believe we’re now entering a phase of renewal. We are renewing our commitment to our mission and finding new and better ways to link our science to our patients.

Over the past year, we held important conversations about how we could rework the relationship between Fred Hutch, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and UW Medicine. The proposed Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center would create a unified adult cancer care and research center that is clinically integrated with UW Medicine. It represents a remarkable opportunity to bring research and patient care closer together.

I’m grateful for the many ways we have found to connect virtually. Still, one of the things I enjoy most is bringing people to our campus, showing them our labs and introducing them to scientists who have come to the Hutch from around the world because they know this is where cures happen. I look forward to showing our community of supporters how profoundly your support is changing lives.

Tom Lynch

Thomas J. Lynch Jr., M.D.
President and director
Raisbeck Endowed Chair

View the Full Report Online
For Dr. Lynch’s video message, full text of our articles and additional content, see the digital version using the QR code at left or the link below.

fredhutch.org/annual-report

2021 Scientific Advancements

Despite the challenges wrought by COVID-19 in 2021, we were steadfast in our commitment to answer the most pressing questions about cancers, infectious diseases and other illnesses.

Thanks to our science-informed safety measures, research proceeded while keeping employees and community safe. Our scientists identified potential new drug strategies to target cancers’ weaknesses, and they remained at the forefront of COVID-19 research at the lab bench and in clinical trials. Our decades of expertise in HIV research also contributed to the approval, at the close of December, of the world’s first long-acting, injectable drug that can prevent infection with the AIDS virus. Some highlights from the year:

AI Points to New Drugs
Dr. Taran Gupta and teammates demonstrated how artificial intelligence tools can screen, identify and validate compounds, including drugs approved for other uses, that could help patients with advanced prostate cancer and other illnesses. They identified two compounds that act against key molecules involved in prostate cancer growth and suppress tumor growth in the lab.

Improving Immunotherapy Via RNA
McIlwain Family Endowed Chair in Data Science holder Dr. Robert Bradley and collaborators demonstrated how RNA-altering drugs might improve cancer immunotherapy. Their work in petri dishes and mice shows that drugs that trigger errors in RNA codes can cause tumor cells to sprout new surface proteins that are seen as foreign by the body’s immune cells, resulting in immune attack.

Advancing COVID-19 Vaccines
Researchers in the Fred Hutch–headquartered COVID-19 Prevention Network operations center developed and conducted Phase 3 clinical trials to ensure rapid and thorough evaluation of COVID-19 vaccines, including the now-authorized Moderna shot. In addition to evaluating safety and efficacy of these vaccines, CoVPN researchers defined measurements of immune responses that could help trials of future COVID-19 vaccines be run more quickly and with fewer participants.

Coronavirus Mutations and Immunity
Researchers in the Bloom and Overbaugh labs studied coronavirus mutations and how they affect neutralization by antibodies, the targeted immune proteins elicited by infection and vaccination. These studies aim to show how the virus could escape our immunity and inform the design of future vaccines and treatments.

Insights Into Immune Regeneration
Researchers on Dr. Jarrod Dudakov’s team boosted immune function in mice by using an experimental compound that targets a central molecular player in natural immune regeneration in the thymus, an immune organ located in front of the heart. The researchers’ findings open a door to the creation of future drugs that could protect cancer patients and others with reduced immunity.

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Investments in Innovation

With the support of our donors, we continue to invest in leading-edge scientific technologies, facilities, services and expertise to spur discoveries and bench-to-bedside translation across every scientific division.

Cryogenic Electron Microscopy

Scientists solved their first molecular structure in our new cryo-EM facility in 2021. This technology, which is part of our Electron Microscopy shared resource, reveals once-unsolvable structures of proteins at a fine-grained scale never before possible, accelerating cell biology research, drug development and more.

Business Development

It takes partnership with industry to ensure that patients benefit from our discoveries. In our fiscal year 2021, our investment in business development led to more than 200 new investment disclosures and over 70 revenue-generating deals that are helping translate our innovations into new drugs and other products to help save lives.

COVID-19 Clinical Research Center

More than a year since it opened, research in our donor-supported CCRC has helped to identify effective COVID-19 treatments, and CCRC scientists continue to conduct clinical trials of investigational treatments for people with, or at high risk for, COVID-19 or long-haul COVID-19.

Fearless Researchers. Total Commitment. Your Support.

Hutch scientists drove progress toward cures in 2021 thanks to the power of the many. Longtime supporters and new ones alike made 65,942 donations to fuel our breakthrough research. Thousands of people tuned into our Science Says virtual roundtables or read about our leading COVID-19 researchers in media coverage and Twitter feeds.

Foundation for Change

To build the future we all envision — in which cancers and other deadly diseases are prevented or cured in all people — we remain committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion principles and goals. We continue to lay and build on our foundation of critical change to actualize our mission.

In 2021, we led science and educational initiatives that advance health equity, and we pursued new opportunities to foster participation of community partners in our science. We implemented recruitment practices that advance diversity in roles across the Hutch, including researchers and other professionals, and we continue to develop and strengthen inclusive recruitment strategies. Meanwhile, we created new educational experiences for our employees to engage practices that promote equity, inclusion and anti-racism throughout. We expanded strategic partnerships with organizations across our region and our world that can help us advance all of this mission’s critical work.

Read more about our progress and commitments in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Annual Report: fredhutch.org/dei-report

In 2021, we led the way in incorporating robust community engagement and reducing barriers for participation in clinical trials of new cancer treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. Our aim is to advance health equity and bring the benefits of clinical research to more people.

Crowdfunding Empowered Supporters and Scientists

Hutch scientists are making rapid progress in developing treatments for kids with acute myeloid leukemia thanks to more than $1 million contributed to Project Stella. Supporters across the U.S. are inspired by 2-year-old Ella Siders (left), who is living with the disease, and Stacia Nowotny (right), who died at the age of 4.

Businesses, Employees and Customers Banded Together

Companies like Haselwood Auto Group in Bremerton, Washington, and Smith Brothers Farms supported us through cause marketing. Others engaged their employees. Quairac’s 5 For The Fight Employee Giving campaign supported the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research, which focuses on reducing the economic and human burden of cancer.

Donors Gave Creatively and for the Future

Supporters like John DeVore gifted sports memorabilia, cryptocurrency and 55 cars. We received more than $5.5 million in support from donor-advised funds, IRA charitable rollovers and stock. In addition, 22 people became new members of the Thomas Legacy Society.

More than 2,700 people attended a special Science Says on #GivingTuesday to hear scientists solve their first molecular structure in our new cryo-EM facility in 2021. This technology, which is part of our Electron Microscopy shared resource, reveals once-unsolvable structures of proteins at a fine-grained scale never before possible, accelerating cell biology research, drug development and more.

FROM LEFT: Evolvement biologist Dr. Harmit Malik, blood stem cell transplant specialist Dr. Folashade Otegbeye, immunotherapy researcher Dr. Mazyar Shadman, liver cancer researcher Dr. Abi Arfeau, immunotherapy researcher Dr. Brian Till.
Highlights of Honors and Promotions

Dr. Robert Bradley
Scientific Director, Translational Data Science Integrated Research Center, Fred Hutch

Dr. Christopher Li
Associate Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Fred Hutch/University of Washington Cancer Consortium

Dr. Trevor Bedford
MacArthur Fellow

Dr. Frederick “Erick” Matsen
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator

Dr. Yingye Zheng
Fellow, American Statistical Association

A Banner Year for Obliteride

As we gathered worldwide for our ninth year and second virtual season, the passion and commitment of the Obliteride community closed the distance between us. Together, we honored loved ones and funded research to improve and save lives. It was a record-breaking season: More than 5,400 people from 40 countries, all 50 U.S. states and six continents biked, hiked, kayaked, read poetry, cooked and more. They joined up with more than 9,800 donors and 21 corporate sponsors to raise more than $4.2 million for Fred Hutch.

Registration for our 2022 season opens April 5. Join us for Obliteride’s 10th anniversary!

Fiscal Year 2021

These numbers are for our fiscal year 2021, which ended June 30.

Operating Revenues
Total: $984,018

Contracts and Government Grants
$705,389 (71.7%)

Gifts and Philanthropic Grants
$88,395 (8.8%)

Investment Income
$105,910 (10.8%)

Other Income
$86,024 (8.8%)

Sources of Philanthropic Contributions

Gifts from Individuals
44%

Philanthropic Grants
41%

Program Services and Research
$755,404 (89.5%)

Management and General
$75,757 (9%)

Funded Gifts
$8%

Corporate Gifts
4%

Funding and Community Events
3%

Operating Expenses
Total: $844,266

All figures in thousands. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Supporters at the Heart of the Hutch

La Shanda Hurst
La Shanda Hurst lost her father to colon cancer. At Microsoft, she inspires fellow employees to support their favorite causes during the company’s October Give Campaign. When combined with the company match, Microsoft employees contributed over $1.3 million to Fred Hutch in 2021.

La Studio

Jamie Rawding painted 23 portraits of women who had chest tattoos after breast cancer surgery. The proceeds from her art show went to support cancer research. “I believe [Fred Hutch] when they say they will find a cure for cancer,” she said.

La Studio

Rebecca Hastings
Rebecca Hastings created hugabox, her care package company, to honor her daughter, who died from Ewing sarcoma, and to support sarcoma research. Hugabox donates 90% of profits to Fred Hutch and other research centers that are developing better treatments.

La Studio

The Seattle SeaRiders’ Obliteride team posed for a picture on Alki Beach in West Seattle on Aug. 8. They raised more than $124,000 for cancer research.

In July we announced a comprehensive collaboration with UW Medicine, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and Seattle Children’s aimed at bringing groundbreaking research to patient care for children and adults. Visit FHCC.org to learn more.

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New Year, Renewed Focus

The pace of technological advancement is only accelerating with each new year. But what will remain unchanged in 2022 and beyond is our commitment to chase the big ideas that will save lives.

Here’s what a few of our scientists hope we will see this year, from breakthrough scientific technologies to early detection and new cures.

Visit fredhutch.org/predictions to read more hopes and predictions for 2022.

“It’s going to be an explosive year for cellular therapies.”
— Dr. Phil Greenberg
Professor and Head, Program in Immunology, Clinical Research Division, and holder of The Rona Jaffe Foundation Endowed Chair

Precise genetic engineering technology like CRISPR “is revolutionizing the way we study cancer and genetic diseases and holds the great promise of being able to precisely engineer mutations or fixes to mutations in patients.”
— Dr. Andrew Hsieh
Associate Professor, Human Biology and Clinical Research divisions

“It is my hope that we are getting colorectal cancer screening rates to above 80% of the eligible population.”
— Dr. Ulrike Peters
Professor and Associate Director, Public Health Sciences Division, and holder of the Fred Hutch 40th Anniversary Endowed Chair