

# 2010 Report



BURROUGHS  
WELLCOME  
FUND 

# 2010 Highlights



**September 2009:** Brian Druker, a recipient of the 2000 Clinical Scientist Award in Translational Research, received the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for his role in developing molecularly-targeted treatments for chronic myeloid leukemia.



**November 2009:** Announced the recipients of the Preterm Birth Initiative Planning Grants to develop an interdisciplinary group of researchers with expertise in a wide range of fields to address scientific issues related to preterm birth.



**February 2010:** Concluded a yearlong process of strategic planning to provide a set of initiatives and proposed actions that will chart the course of BWF funding.



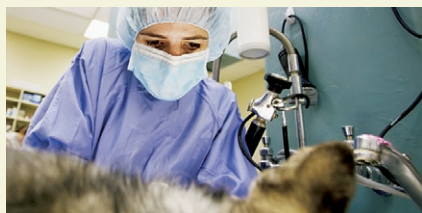
**March 2010:** Provided significant support for the North Carolina Science Festival, a multi-week event encompassing hundreds of science education and outreach events throughout North Carolina.



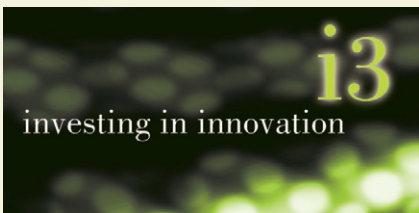
**April 2010:** Announced the inaugural recipients of the Career Award for Science and Mathematics Teachers. The award provided professional development funding for five outstanding teachers in North Carolina.



**June 2010:** Partnered with the Keck and Schwartz Foundations to convene interdisciplinary researchers in physics and biology. Convened funders to discuss creating opportunities for this subset of the research enterprise.



**August 2010:** Offered a short course for veterinarian scientists in Athens, Georgia in conjunction with the Merial-National Institutes of Health National Veterinary Scholars Symposium.



**August 2010:** Contributed funds to help secure the federal i3 grant that will provide North Carolina school districts and school-based leadership teams support to promote hands-on, inquiry-oriented science instruction.



**August 2010:** Installed BWF *Focus in Sound* audiocasts on iTunes. Interviews include Kerry Ressler, Blossom Damania, Laura Miller, and Rochelle Schwartz-Bloom.



# President's Message

**We believe** at the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, just as do all our peers in the donor community, that our grants and gifts make a positive difference. We put this perception to the test this past year when we reviewed the progress of our many awardees. We were pleased to see that, indeed, our awardees have and are continuing to make important contributions in their respective fields. The results can be found at [www.bwfund.org/annualreport](http://www.bwfund.org/annualreport) along with audited financial statements, and listings of the grants we made during the fiscal year.

The positive outcome of these studies made it particularly upsetting when the downturn in the economy and our endowment forced us to suspend a majority of our grant programs and reduce payouts to many awardees in 2009-2010. However, our opportunity to make a difference has been restored as the recent increase in our endowment has enabled us to again offer our programs in 2010-2011 and to provide a full payout to our awardees.

During this past year of reduced grant activity, we focused much of our attention on strategic planning that concluded in February. We charted our course for the next five years, concluding that our mission will remain the same—to advance the biomedical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities. We will continue to fund areas considered important, yet underfunded, while emphasizing career development in those areas.

The distribution of BWF's grants will remain primarily in our competitive programs [see chart at right]. Other

funds will be awarded to catalyze areas of interest or to advance science and education through support for meetings, policy, and other activities.

One significant change to the Fund's program is that the Clinical Scientist Award in Translational Research has been discontinued. Since translational research has been emphasized by the Federal government and backed by large amounts of funding, the Board felt there was no longer significant need in this particular area. We will continue, though, to provide modest ad hoc grant support as part of our long-term interest in this field.

The BWF did not suspend all its grantmaking this past year. It was the first year for the Career Awards for Science and Mathematics Teachers, and we selected five outstanding science and mathematics teachers in North Carolina. We are pleased to be able to partner with the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction in this recognition of the professionalism of precollege teachers.



*John E. Burris, Ph.D.*

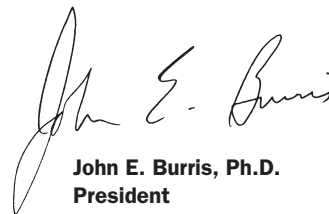
*“The Burroughs Wellcome Fund remains committed to funding the next generation of scientists and researchers so that they can translate the excitement of science into the rewards that research and education bring to us all.”*

We also held a travel grant program for graduate students and postdocs. The success of that experiment has led us to launch an expanded program of travel grants in 2010-2011 for interdisciplinary collaborations for scientists who travel to work in laboratories in different disciplines than their own. Recognizing the importance of databases in answering biological questions, we also funded an initiative to create a pan-fungal database. We expect that it will become a valuable tool for researchers in the field of mycology, and also for many others interested in comparative biology. As always, we continued to support meetings and were pleased with the very positive interactions generated in areas such as preterm birth and the interface of physics and biology.

For all of us in the foundation world this past year has been a challenging one. As we emerge from a time of funding stress, we do so with a renewed optimism about

the positive effect we have on scientific understanding and progress. Foundations can stimulate interactions, can try new areas for emphasis, and can react quickly to changing opportunities.

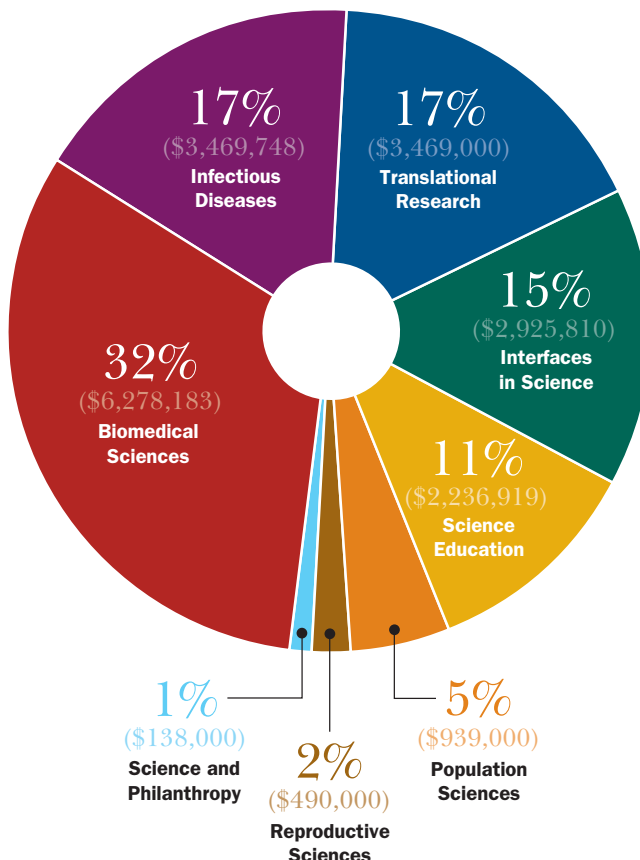
Even in these difficult times, we remain excited about the research our awardees conduct and the potential it brings. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund remains committed to funding the next generation of scientists and researchers so that they can translate the excitement of science into the rewards that research and education bring to us all.



**John E. Burris, Ph.D.**  
President  
Burroughs Wellcome Fund

## BWF distributed \$19.95 million in grants during fiscal year 2010.

Visit [www.bwfund.org/annualreport](http://www.bwfund.org/annualreport) for audited financial statements and evaluations of our grant programs.



# Grant Programs

## Biomedical Sciences

### **Career Awards for Medical Scientists**

Five-year awards for physician scientists provide \$700,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the early years of faculty service. This award addresses the on-going problem of increasing the number of physician scientists and will help facilitate the transition to a career in research.

### **Collaborative Research Travel Grants**

Provide up to \$15,000 in support for researchers from degree-granting institutions to travel to a laboratory to acquire a new research technique or to collaborate on a project. Consideration is given to interdisciplinary scientists at the interface of physical and biological sciences.

## Infectious Diseases

### **Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease**

Five-year awards provide \$500,000 for opportunities for accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to study infectious disease pathogenesis, with a focus on the intersection of human and microbial biology. The program is intended to shed light on the overarching issues of how human hosts handle infectious challenges.

## Interfaces in Science

### **Career Awards at the Scientific Interface**

Five-year awards provide \$500,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the first three years of faculty service. These awards are intended to foster the early career development of researchers with backgrounds in the physical sciences whose work addresses biological questions.

## Population and Laboratory Based Sciences

### **Institutional Program Unifying Population and Laboratory Based Sciences**

Five-year awards provide \$2.5 million to unite population-level and laboratory-based biological sciences. The award supports the training of researchers working between existing research concentrations in population approaches to health and in basic biological sciences.

## Reproductive Sciences

### **Preterm Birth Initiative**

Awards will bring together a diverse interdisciplinary group to address the scientific issues related to preterm birth. Full research grants provide up to \$600,000 over a four-year period.

## Science Education

### **Career Awards for Science and Mathematics Teachers**

Five-year awards provide \$175,000 to eligible science or mathematics teachers in the North Carolina public primary and secondary schools. The purpose of this award is to recognize teachers who have demonstrated solid knowledge of science or mathematics content and have outstanding performance records in educating children.

### **Student Science Enrichment Program**

Three-year awards provide up to \$180,000 to North Carolina nonprofit organizations. This program supports creative inquiry-based science enrichment activities that occur outside the typical school day for K-12 students.

*For complete program information,  
including deadlines, please visit [www.bwfund.org](http://www.bwfund.org)*

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND

## About the Burroughs Wellcome Fund

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is an independent private foundation dedicated to advancing the biomedical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities. Within this broad mission, BWF seeks to accomplish two primary goals—to help scientists early in their careers develop as independent investigators and to advance fields in the basic biomedical sciences that are undervalued or in need of particular encouragement.

Financial support is channeled primarily through competitive peer-reviewed award programs. Grants are made primarily to degree-granting institutions on behalf of

individual researchers, who must be nominated by their institutions. To complement these competitive award programs, grants are also made to nonprofit organizations conducting activities intended to improve the general environment for science.

BWF was founded in 1955 as the corporate foundation of Burroughs Wellcome Co., the U.S. branch of the Wellcome pharmaceutical enterprise, based in the United Kingdom. In 1993, BWF received a \$400 million gift from the Wellcome Trust, the main entity in the enterprise, to become a fully independent foundation.

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