



Dreams to Discoveries

ILLUMINATING THE PATH TO TRANSFORMING HUMAN HEALTH

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

“As we move into 2024, our resolve remains stronger than ever. The global challenges of our time are significant, but so is our determination to continue to make a meaningful impact. We will continue to push the boundaries of science and strive for a healthier and more equitable world.”

President's Message



Dear BWF Community,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is my privilege, as the President of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, to share with you our annual report for the year 2023. This report provides an overview on the mechanisms in place to help advance the frontiers of scientific research and our commitment to improving human health.

The year 2023 was one of continued growth and achievement. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the global conflicts, continuation of the pandemic,

and a steady flow of orchestrated misinformation, the Fund remained steadfast in its mission to foster innovation, support visionary researchers, embrace diversity and inspire the next generation of researchers.

Grants and Fellowships

We awarded grants and fellowships to many promising researchers, totaling more than \$36 million. Our bridging grants support early career scientists, enabling them to explore bold ideas, pursue professional development opportunities, and push the boundaries of knowledge. These investments have the potential to transform the landscape of scientific research in the coming years and has been the foundational grantmaking strategy for the Fund.

Our various programs and scientific initiatives, including Next Gen Pregnancy Initiative and Innovations in Regulatory Science, continue to drive breakthroughs in critical underfunded research areas. The Fund plays a pivotal role

in advancing scientific knowledge and addressing some of the most pressing global health challenges.

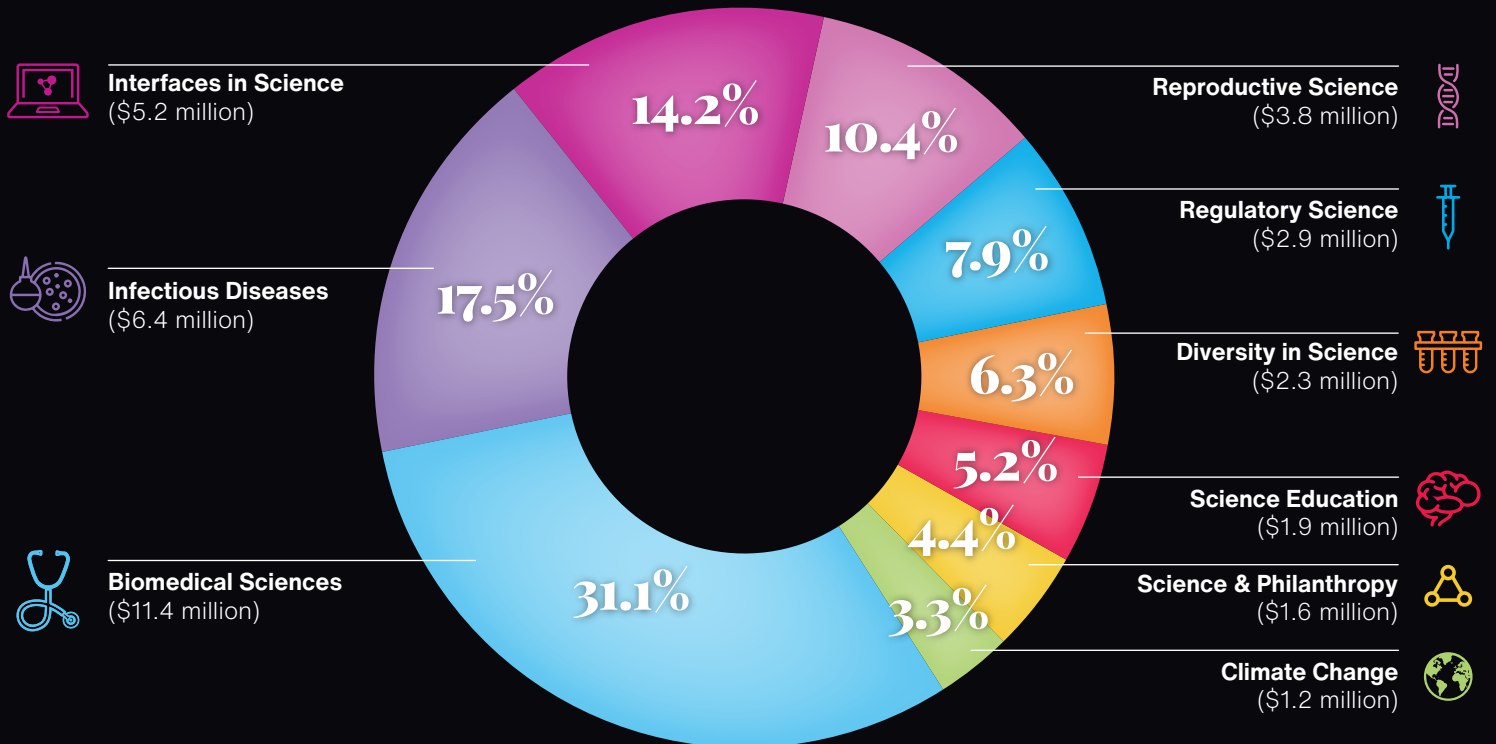
Diversity and Inclusion

We continue our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in the scientific community by expansion of our Diversity in Science awards. Through other initiatives, we provided opportunities to underrepresented and historically marginalized groups, fostering an environment where different perspectives and experiences are valued. We are proud of the strides we have made, and we recognize the importance of continued work in science and education to help everyone find a place for themselves in STEM careers.

Climate Change and Human Health

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund has demonstrated a commitment to address the multifaceted intersection of climate change and human health through strategic grant investment. We recognize the profound impact of environmental changes on public well-being and the Fund provided seed grants to initiatives that aim to investigate, mitigate, and adapt to the health implications of a changing climate through a wide range of mechanisms. By fostering innovation in this critical area, the Fund contributed to the development of solutions that not only enhance our understanding of the relationship between climate change and human health but also pave the way for interventions that safeguard communities and promote sustainable well-being. Through its grant programs, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund plays a pivotal role in advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, inspiring young minds, and ultimately fostering a healthier and more resilient future in the face of global environmental challenges.

BWF awarded \$36.7 million in grants during fiscal year 2023



Biomedical Sciences
 Career Awards in the Medical Sciences
 Resident Faculty Scholar

Climate Change and Human Health
 Climate and Health Interdisciplinary Awards
 Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants

Diversity in Science
 Graduate Diversity Enrichment Program
 Postdoctoral Diversity Enrichment Program

Infectious Diseases
 Investigators in Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease

Interfaces in Science
 Career Award at the Scientific Interface

Regulatory Science
 Innovation in Regulatory Science Awards

Reproductive Science
 Next Gen Pregnancy Initiative

Science and Philanthropy
 Science Communication
 Science and the Arts
 General Philanthropy

Science and Education
 Career Award for STEM Teachers
 Promoting Innovation in Science and Mathematics
 Student STEM Enrichment Program

For audited financial statements and complete grant listings, visit www.bwffund.org/about/annual-report

Science Communication

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is a trailblazer in investing and advancing science communication. Understanding the importance of bridging the gap between scientific advancements and public understanding, the Fund has consistently championed initiatives that promote effective science communication. By providing funding and resources to scientists, researchers, and communicators, the Fund provides a mechanism for them to communicate complex scientific concepts in accessible and engaging ways and enhance public awareness of scientific breakthroughs while cultivating a culture of transparency and collaboration. An exciting recent priority has been further fostering active, productive interactions by scientists, artists and humanities

scholars to inspire wonder and awe in the natural world through their collaboration.

As we move into 2024, our resolve remains stronger than ever. The global challenges of our times are significant, but so is our determination to continue to make a meaningful impact. We will continue to push the boundaries of science and strive for a healthier and more equitable world.

Sincerely,

Louis J. Muglia, MD, PhD
 President and CEO
 Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Competitive Grant Programs

Biomedical Sciences

Career Awards for Medical Scientists

(CAMS): Five-year awards for physician-scientists provide \$700,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service. This award addresses the ongoing challenge of increasing the number of physician-scientists and aims to facilitate the transition to a career in research.

Resident Faculty Scholar Program (RFS):

Provides up to \$125,000 in support to faculty level academic scientists to utilize BWF as a site for mini-sabbaticals/project incubation allowing dedicated time to initiate or accelerate their work as aligned with BWF priorities and goals.

Climate Change and Human Health

Climate and Health Interdisciplinary Awards

(CHI): Three-year awards provide \$375,000 to support collaborative exploratory work that opens new ground for comprehensively assessing or mitigating the impacts of climate change on human health.

Climate Change and Human Health Seed

Grant: Provides up to \$50,000 to stimulate the growth of new connections between scholars working in largely disconnected fields who might together change the course of climate change's impact on human health.

Diversity in Science

Graduate Diversity Enrichment Program

(GDEP): Two-year awards provide \$5,000 to underrepresented minority PhD students (enrolled in NC Institutions of Higher Education) with opportunities for greater science and research enrichment experiences.

Postdoctoral Diversity Enrichment Program

(PDEP): Three-year awards provide \$60,000 to support the development of underrepresented minority postdoctoral fellows in biomedical research.

Infectious Diseases

Investigators in the Pathogenesis of

Infectious Disease (PATH): Five-year awards provide \$500,000 to support accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level in the study of infectious disease pathogenesis, with a focus on the intersection of human and microbial biology. The program aims to improve our understanding of how human hosts handle infectious challenges.

Interfaces in Science

Career Awards at the Scientific Interface

(CASI): Five-year awards provide \$560,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the early years of faculty service. These awards are intended to foster the early career development of researchers with backgrounds in the physical/mathematical/computational/engineering sciences whose work addresses biological questions.

Regulatory Science

Innovation in Regulatory Science Awards

(IRSA): Five-year awards provide \$500,000 to academic investigators developing new methodologies or innovative approaches in regulatory science that will ultimately inform regulatory decisions.

Reproductive Science

Next Gen Pregnancy Initiative (NGPI):

Four-year awards provide up to \$500,000 to stimulate both creative individual scientists and multi-investigator teams to approach healthy and adverse pregnancy outcomes using creative basic and translation science methods.

Science Education

Career Awards for STEM Teachers (CAST):

Five-year awards provide \$175,000 to eligible science or mathematics teachers in North Carolina's public primary and secondary public schools. This award recognizes teachers who have demonstrated solid knowledge of STEM content and have outstanding performance records in educating children.

Promoting Innovation in Science and

Mathematics (PRISM): Awards up to \$4,500 to provide teachers with funding for materials, equipment, and training to conduct hands-on, inquiry-based science and mathematics projects in the North Carolina public schools.

Student STEM Enrichment Program (SSEP):

Three-year awards provide up to \$180,000 to North Carolina nonprofit organizations, including public/private schools, universities, colleges, and museums. This program supports creative inquiry-based STEM enrichment activities that occur outside the typical school day for K-12 students.

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund serves and strengthens society by nurturing a diverse group of leaders in biomedical sciences to improve human health through education and powering discovery in frontiers of greatest need.

Full Annual Report and Financial information located at www.bwffund.org/about/annual-report

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21 T. W. Alexander Drive | P. O. Box 13901
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3901
919.991.5100 | @bwffund | www.bwffund.org