

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



The year 2025 presented significant challenges for the biomedical research and STEM communities. Reductions in federal funding, mounting pressures on academic institutions, and increasing complexity in how science is communicated and understood shaped the environment in which our grantees operate.

In this context, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund remained focused and resolute. We continued to champion the values that define our work – scientific rigor, creativity, fairness, and opportunity –

by investing not only in programs, but in people. We support individuals we believe will shape the future through their discoveries and through their engagement with a community that now spans more than 70 years.

Our approach is grounded in partnership. We do not see ourselves solely as funders, but as thought partners and collaborators – committed to listening, learning, and adapting alongside the scientists, educators, and leaders we support. That philosophy informed our work across both longstanding programs and newer initiatives.

In 2025, we sustained our investment in early-career scientists at pivotal moments, particularly during the transition to independence, as traditional funding sources became more constrained. At the same time, we advanced new efforts such as the Climate + Health Excellence Centers, reflecting our belief that today’s most pressing challenges require integrated approaches – linking discovery science, education, workforce development, and pathways to policy impact.

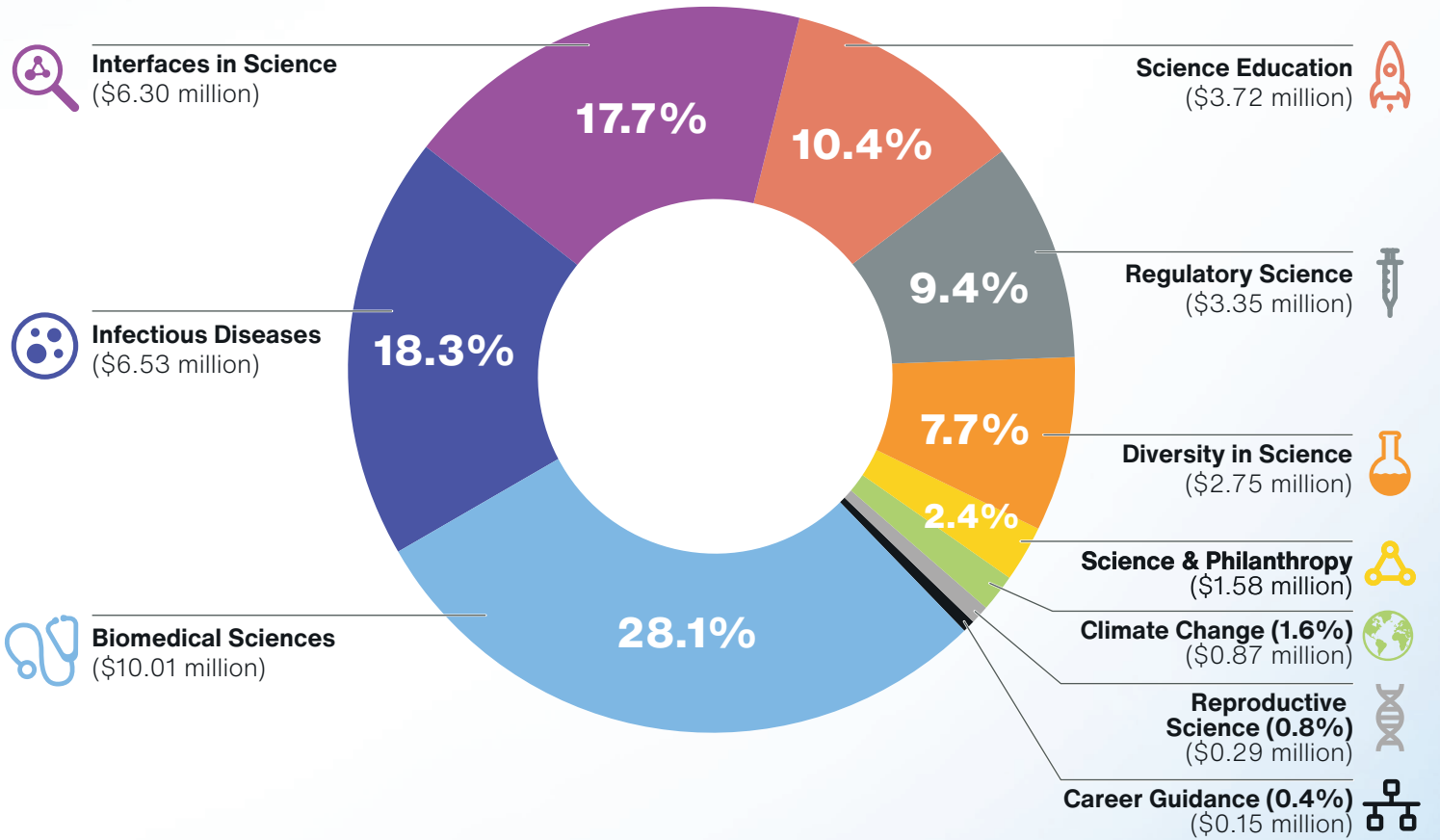
We also deepened our commitment to health equity through convenings, partnerships, and applied work that brings research closer to the communities it serves. Central to this effort is a continued emphasis on science communication as a two-way exchange.

This report reflects the talent, dedication, and leadership of our grantees and partners. I am grateful to them, and to our Board and staff, whose stewardship and insight continue to guide the Fund’s work. Together, we remain focused on advancing science in the service of human health at a moment when that commitment is more important than ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L. Muglia".

Louis J. Muglia, MD, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Burroughs Wellcome Fund

BWF awarded **\$35.6 MILLION** in grants during fiscal year 2025



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 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



COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS FOR 2025

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.

CAREER GUIDANCE

Career Guidance for Trainees: Program will host a workshop for early-career administrators focused on the professional development of PhD scientists. The workshop will help participants strengthen their research evaluation skills and design new career-focused interventions for use at their home institutions. Over the following year, participants will build evaluation networks, implement their projects with support from a \$15,000 grant, submit results to a national meeting, and prepare a manuscript for publication.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career Guidance for Trainees: One-year awards up to \$50,000 for academic institutions, professional societies, and other nonprofit organizations to demonstrate affordable projects that help individual scientists assess personal growth and effectively pursue career paths.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN HEALTH

Climate + Health Excellence (CHEX) Centers: Five-year institutional awards up to \$10 million to advance research, education, and public communication on the health impacts of climate change. Targeted at institutions or consortia already progressing toward becoming centers of excellence in this field, the program aims to strengthen collaborations across disciplines and between researchers and affected communities.

Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grant: One-year awards 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.

ENRICHMENT 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 Enrichment Program (PEP): Three-year awards provide \$60,000 to support the career development activities for postdoctoral fellows at a degree-granting institution in the United States or Canada whose training and professional development are guided by mentors committed to helping them advance to stellar careers in biomedical or medical research.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease (PATH): Five-year awards provide \$505,000 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): One-year 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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