

Focused Ultrasound Foundation



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Mission

The Focused Ultrasound Foundation was created to improve the lives of millions of people with serious medical disorders by accelerating the development and adoption of focused ultrasound. This new, early stage, non-invasive, therapeutic technology could be an alternative or adjunct to surgery, radiation therapy, and drug delivery, transforming the treatment of many life-threatening and disabling conditions. The Foundation is creating the roadmap to provide patients with this treatment option in the shortest time possible.

Strategy/Approach

The Foundation's key values guide their work and activities: patient centric, catalytic, entrepreneurial, and pioneering. Taking a multi-pronged strategy, the Foundation works to accelerate progress from the center of the focused ultrasound ecosystem, fostering collaboration, communication and innovation.

The Foundation engages in three primary activities: conducting and supporting research, promoting collaboration, and increasing awareness.

- **Research**—The Foundation organizes, conducts, and funds research to provide evidence of feasibility, safety, and efficacy for use by a variety of stakeholders, including physicians, patients, regulatory agencies, third-party payers and investors.
- **Collaboration** – The Foundation fosters collaboration in order to rapidly achieve a critical mass of knowledge without duplicating efforts. We build bridges across translational boundaries by convening the community through symposia and workshops, by managing a database of research and treatment sites, and by creating centers of excellence, to serve as multidisciplinary hubs of research, training, and patient care.
- **Awareness**—The Foundation works to increase awareness among physicians researchers, patients, regulatory bodies and payers in order to advance the field. By disseminating knowledge through our website, newsletter, online medical journal and social media, we have become the world's most comprehensive source of focused ultrasound information. We also are committed to cultivating the next generation of clinicians and scientists through fellowships and internships worldwide .

Research Portfolio

The strategic focus of the Foundation's research program is the rapid development of new applications of focused ultrasound that have the potential to fulfill critical unmet needs or are superior to current therapies. The program's niche is translational research – the application, rather than the discovery, of knowledge. The Foundation funds preclinical studies and clinical trials as well as technical research when it is needed to overcome impediments to progress. The two primary research programs are:

- **Intramural Research Program** – Through this program, research is conducted by Foundation staff and supplemented through collaboration with academia and industry. The Brain Program is dedicated to advancing focused ultrasound to become a standard of care for the treatment of a range of neurological disorders. The Foundation works with experts from around the world to identify critical challenges and design research to overcome them. The Liver and Pancreas Program concentrates on advancing focused ultrasound therapies for two of the most deadly, prevalent and difficult-to-treat cancers.
- **External Awards Program** – This program provides funding for investigator-initiated clinical, pre-clinical and early stage research projects through a competitive peer-reviewed application process. The Foundation has awarded \$3.7 million to date to fund a range of research projects. Of the \$2.2 million granted to 21 completed projects, nine of these studies have received follow-on funding equaling \$18.3 million from the NIH and other sources.

Partnership Practices

The Foundation collaborates with industry, academia, non-profits and disease-specific foundations to advance the development of focused ultrasound. **The Foundation partners with biotech, pharmaceutical and device companies** who share its vision to improve the quality of life and longevity of patients in the shortest time possible.

Financials

The Focused Ultrasound Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit health organization. The most recent financial information available is from 2011.¹

Year ending 12/31/12:

- Revenue: \$6,685,672

¹ Information obtained 2012 Form 990 Financial Information

- Assets: \$10,279,439 (market value)
- Grants: \$1,028,384
- Gifts received: \$6,400,547
- Expenditures: \$4,696,664
- Total giving: \$1,245,090

Key Accomplishments

- TIME Magazine recognized focused ultrasound as one of the "50 Best Inventions of 2011."
- Through Foundation support, the world's first patient was treated for essential tremor with focused ultrasound in February 2011. The trial produced a sea-change in the enthusiasm and interest of stakeholders in the focused ultrasound community, and laid the groundwork for new clinical trials for Parkinson's disease, brain tumors, and epilepsy.
- In June 2013, the Foundation was awarded a \$600,000 grant by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research to help fund a pilot study of focused ultrasound for the treatment of dyskinesia in Parkinson's disease.
- In March 2014, the world's first non-invasive brain tumor treatment was conducted with focused ultrasound thermal ablation. Treatment of this patient is the first critical step in the path to developing a new, noninvasive approach for patients with brain tumors that could serve as an alternative to surgery or therapy.
- Since 2006, the Foundation has received 187 abstracts, invited 148 proposals, and disbursed over \$3.7 million to fund 35 projects. Of these, 21 projects are complete. Foundation-funded research awards have led to follow-on funding from others in excess of \$18 million, an 8-fold return on investment.
- More than \$10 million was committed in 2013. Over \$55 million has been contributed since 2006.
- Centers of Excellence at the University of Virginia and the Institute for Cancer Research in London have been established. These centers are luminary sites that develop clinical evidence, set best practices and standards for the consistent delivery of treatment and train clinicians and scientists.
- More than 25 articles have been published to date in the Foundation-supported open-access *Journal of Therapeutic Ultrasound*.

Leadership

The foundation is governed by a Board of Directors and overseen by a professional leadership staff. Additional advisors, including the Focused Ultrasound Foundation Council, Research Advisory Committee, and Fellowship Advisory Committee, assist in evaluating external research and engagement opportunities.

- **Foundation Chairman:** Neal Kassell, nkassell@fusfoundation.org
- **Medical Director:** Arik Hananel, ahananel@fusfoundation.org
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