

International Mental Health Research Organization



P.O. Box 680
Rutherford, CA, 94573
(707) 963-4038
www.imhro.org



Mission

The mission of the International Mental Health Research Organization (IMHRO) is to alleviate human suffering from mental illness by funding scientific research into causes, prevention, and new treatments. The goal of research is to lead to cures, with a focus on schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and depression.

Strategy/Approach

To further its mission, IMHRO:

- Produces, supports, and builds awareness for fundraising events to raise money for mental health research.
- Directs funding to the most promising research by soliciting and selecting proposals in the area of prevention, treatment, and cure of mental disorders.
- Collaborates with affiliate organizations, people, and events worldwide to raise and direct funding—and minimize duplication of scientific effort.
- Works to build awareness of the scientific achievements and possibilities.

Key initiatives include:

- **BringChange2Mind** – A public education campaign launched in 2009 to erase the stigma and discrimination around mental illness.
- **One Mind for Research** – A campaign uniting industry, academia, government, and advocacy groups across international neuroscience in a 10-year “moonshot” to significantly reduce the burden of brain disease for all people.
- **Music Festival for Mental Health** – An event with top chefs, wineries, musicians, and scientists to raise funds and awareness.

Research Portfolio

IMHRO-sponsored scientists are working to understand the "Big 3" brain diseases – schizophrenia, depression, and bipolar disorder – and move closer to therapies targeted at mental illnesses' sources and to cures. The organization proactively seeks the best high-return projects that are too early for government grants.

- **The Johnson & Johnson–IMHRO Rising Star Translational Research Awards** – Developed in partnership with Johnson & Johnson’s Corporate Office of Science and Technology (COSAT), the objective of these awards is to advance the translation of scientific knowledge of underlying disease mechanisms in bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression.
 - \$250,000 each, spread over up to three years

- **The IMHRO Rising Star Basic Research Award in Memory of George Largay** – This award is for research specifically on major depression, both translational and basic research projects focused on innovative strategies and technologies.

➤ \$250,000 each, spread over up to three years

Partnership Practices

IMHRO collaborates with researchers, foundations, patients, and industry to advance medical progress in mental health, often requiring competing scientists and institutions to partner in order to get grants.

IMHRO partners with biotech and pharmaceutical companies. For example, it partners with J&J COSAT on the Rising Star Translational Research Awards.

Financials

IMHRO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit health organization. The most recent financial information available is from 2012.¹

Year ending 12/31/12:

- Revenue: \$6,054,023
- Assets: \$4,598,164 (market value)
- Grants: \$668,214f or grants
- Gifts received: \$6,699,095
- Expenditures: \$4,142,663

Key Accomplishments

- Raised \$146 million for schizophrenia research.
- Scientists funded by IMHRO have received \$48 million in follow-on grants from the National Institutes of Health to continue research initiated through IMHRO’s investment.
- Actively fosters collaboration among scientists, mental illness agencies, institutions, and funders.
- Incubated One Mind for Research campaign.

Leadership

IMHRO is governed by a **Board of Directors** and counseled by a **Scientific Advisory Board**.

- **President:** Garen Staglin
- **Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board:** Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD, eric.nestler@mssm.edu
- **Board of Directors:** Vince Rinaldi, Chair

¹ Information obtained from GuideStar, <http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/68-0359707/international-mental-health-research-organization.aspx>, March 2014. .