

Vascular Cures



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Mission

Vascular Cures is an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization that invests in the development of breakthrough treatments to prevent disability and death from vascular disease. Strokes, heart attacks, aneurysms, peripheral artery disease, blood clots, and pulmonary embolisms are all the result of problems along the vascular “highways” in the body. For nearly 30 years, Vascular Cures has funded research that focuses on finding cures. It specifically designs its programs to speed the process of getting results to patients.

Strategy/Approach

Upon its founding, Vascular Cures started funding individual research projects of vascular surgeons to develop innovative treatments for vascular disease. Now, Vascular Cures is the number one research organization focused entirely on finding new treatments and cures for vascular disease through its grant program, laboratory, and research network.

In 2010, the organization formed the **Vascular Cures Research Network**, the first national vascular disease research consortium, and began building a national vascular biobank.

Research Portfolio

Vascular Cures has three different research programs. Only one, the Wylie Scholar program, is a traditional grant program.

- **Wylie Scholar Program** – For outstanding surgeons at early stages of their careers to help them develop as academic vascular surgeon-scientists.
 - *\$50,000/year for three years*
- **Laboratory for Accelerated Vascular Research (LAVR)** – A collaboration of scientists and physicians who work together to generate new scientific knowledge about vascular disease that can be transferred directly into safer, more effective treatments. Founded in 2000 at the University of California, San Francisco, LAVR’s research advances include developing new devices to treat patients with aneurysms, discovering that the Notch gene is associated with blood vessel growth, and pinpointing a protein in animals that reduces atherosclerosis.
- **Vascular Cures Research Network** – A consortium of leading vascular specialists sharing research and results to accelerate the development of new drugs and technologies. The network’s initial research focus is the Genomic and Proteomic Determinants of Peripheral Revascularization Project. It aims to discover predictors of the abnormal healing that causes restenosis, identify high-risk patients, and develop appropriate treatments and technologies. The goal is to develop treatments and technologies to

reduce the failure rate of peripheral vascular repairs by 30 percent within five years.

Partnership Practices

It is unclear whether Vascular Cures partners with biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

Financials

Vascular Cures is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The most recent financial information available is from 2012.¹

Year ending 6/30/12:

- Revenue: \$386,070
- Assets: \$1,183,664
- Medical research grants: \$100,000
- Gifts received: \$407,785
- Expenditures: \$731,462
- Total giving: \$100,000

Key Accomplishments

The organization’s investment in basic and clinical research has resulted in a number of significant discoveries that may lead to new therapies:

- Discovered a gene linked to brain blood vessel malformations, a condition that causes half of the hemorrhagic strokes in children and young adults.
- Exposed the molecular pathways that regulate blood vessel growth, which may lead to new treatments for people suffering with peripheral arterial disease and cancer.
- Identified a gene variation that improves healing by 250%
- Identified a protein that reduces atherosclerosis, which might someday enable a therapy to arrest or reverse it.
- Used adult stem cells and advanced tissue-engineering technology to create new blood vessels for bypass grafts for patients who lack other treatment options.
- Developed a drug to control the growth of abdominal aortic aneurysms, in clinical trials.
- Investigated a drug that might prevent spinal cord injury following surgical repair of thoraco-abdominal aneurysms.

Leadership

Vascular Cures is governed by a **Board of Directors** and relies on its **Scientific Advisory Board** for counsel on related matters and policies.

¹ Information obtained from Foundation Center Directory, <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org>, March 2014.

- **CEO:** Wendy Hitchcock, wendy@vascularcures.org
- **Co-Founder:** Ronald J. Stoney, MD
- **Chairman:** Russell Bromley, russellbromley@gmail.com
- **Chief Medical Officer:** Michael S. Conte, MD