Thanks to your investment in improving the lives of patients, Vascular Cures is bridging the gaps between healthcare participants to build a strong foundation for change. We are doing this by: 1) being a trusted catalyst for unique collaborations that accelerate results; 2) sponsoring patient-centered research based on real world patient needs; and 3) building stakeholder relationships to move from discovery to patient solutions.

For over 35 years we’ve been creating long-term engines of patient-centered innovation. To do this, the how of innovation is as important as the what. Examples are:

- **Trusted collaboration partner:** The Vascular Cures Research Network (VCRN) promotes cross-institutional sharing that is typically unachievable in competitive settings:
  - The annual Vascular Research Summit convenes leaders from over 30 organizations across North America to solve unmet needs in health
  - The Collaborative Patient-Centered Research (CPCR) grants fund multi-institutional projects that create shareable research assets
  - A consortium was brought together to create the first multi-institutional vascular biobank to identify biomarkers involved in healing
- **Creating a pipeline of innovation:** Our Wylie Scholar Award provides a three-year grant of $150,000 to outstanding early-career surgeon-scientists. This allows them to complete a project that enables them to successfully obtain follow on funding:
  - On average, our 20 scholars have secured $3.3 million in subsequent national research funding – a return on investment of 22 to 1. This means more discoveries for new treatments and leaders for better patient care.
  - As an example, to address lethal vascular injuries on the battlefield and after civilian trauma, our 2010 Wylie Scholar is developing a radiofrequency positioned and retrievable stent to allow emergency personnel to stop catastrophic bleeding until reaching treatment

- **Accelerating discoveries to patient care:** Project Voice is aimed at improving quality of life and mobility in patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD) through use of wearable fitness trackers and iPads. The goals include strengthening the clinician/patient relationship, enhancing patient engagement and encouraging patients to manage their own health. We are working with Kaiser Permanente as an innovation partner in Project Voice to evaluate technology-enhanced exercise therapy in PAD.

This is just a peek inside the Vascular Cures innovation engine. By being a partner, you ensure the success of our mission to improve the productivity of innovation – a promise of vascular health for yourself and those around you.

Ed Yu, Chairman
Diabetes Could Mean More Fat in Your Arteries

Dr. Mohamed Zayed, Vascular Cures’ 2015 Wylie Scholar, is working on improving treatments for diabetics with vascular disease. He recently published a cover article for the April 2018 Journal of Lipid Research, showing that people with diabetes are more likely to have higher levels of certain fats (phospholipids) in the lining of the carotid artery than people without diabetes. Since blocked carotid arteries are a common cause of stroke, this has important implications for screening diabetics for vascular disease. Dr. Zayed is the Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri.

Vascular Cures Welcomes New Board Members

Julie Lawrence and Lilia Martinez-Coburn have joined our Board of Directors. Julie is Program Officer with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation’s Patient Care Program, focused on health system redesign, opportunities for technology to augment clinical care, and high-leverage strategies to improve patient safety. Lilia is Director of Product and Consumer Engagement at 23andMe, a pioneering genetic testing company for people to learn more about their health. She has extensive experience in online and mobile health, combining behavioral science with data to improve healthy habits.

Vascular Cures Welcomes New Board Members

Go with Your Gut!

Researchers are finding connections between the collection of “bugs” in our gut (the “microbiome”) and a variety of health conditions. 2016 CPCR award recipient Dr. Karen Ho at Northwestern is evaluating the links between certain microbes and peripheral artery disease (PAD), which could lead to better prediction and treatment. She recently published results in the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery.

2018 Wylie Scholar

Vascular Cures is pleased to announce that Dr. John Byrne, University Health Network (Toronto) has received this career development award. His project will potentially improve the prediction and treatment of aortic aneurysms at high risk of a fatal rupture. Dr. Byrne is the 21st recipient of the $150,000, three-year grant which supports the work of promising vascular surgeon-scientists.

CEO Joins Patients Count Leadership Council

Wendy Hitchcock, CEO has been invited to join the FasterCures’ Patients Count Leadership Council. The council consists of national thought leaders across academia, patient advocacy, policy, healthcare and biopharmaceutical companies, who share an interest in expanding opportunities for patients’ perspectives to shape decision-making at all levels of R&D and care.

Join us for our annual meeting and gala celebrating advances in vascular health!

bit.ly/circulate18