

2007-08  
Annual Report

# Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center



## Table of Contents

*(On computers, please "control-click" headings to go directly to page)*

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Message from the President.....             | 3  |
| Message from the Board Chair .....          | 4  |
| A Year of LA BioMed Achievements .....      | 5  |
| Message from the LA BioMed Foundation ..... | 8  |
| Featured Donors.....                        | 9  |
| 2007-08 Donors.....                         | 10 |
| Message from the Treasurer .....            | 20 |
| Revenues by Source .....                    | 21 |
| Statement of Activities .....               | 22 |
| Leadership.....                             | 24 |

## Message from the President

Innovation and transformation are watchwords at LA BioMed. This past year has been filled with both as the Institute opened an important new laboratory building, the Hanley-Hardison Research Center, its researchers achieved national and international acclaim and it transitioned to new leadership. The Hanley-Hardison Research Center is a critical step forward in the modernization of LA BioMed's facilities. It is a state-of-the-art facility that will provide a workplace worthy of the dedicated scientists and the ground-breaking studies for which LA BioMed is known.

It was named in honor of two of our outstanding volunteer leaders, Joan Hanley and Dee Hardison, to recognize their many contributions to the institute. By recognizing them, we also honor the contributions of all the wonderful volunteers who have served on our Board of Directors and Foundation Board, giving freely of their time and efforts, as well as their financial resources to LA BioMed. They will be proud to see that the Hanley-Hardison Research Center is already bringing together researchers from different departments to enhance the pace of discovery at LA BioMed.

Our dedicated scientists continue to be at the forefront of their chosen fields, advancing innovation with research into new methods and approaches to preventing, treating and curing disease. This past year, several of our leading researchers have achieved national and international recognition for their work. We have always known LA BioMed has an abundance of talent, and it is gratifying to have others recognize the outstanding research and work of our scientists.

This past year also saw a change in leadership at LA BioMed, as our president and CEO, Kenneth P. Trevett, left the institute in September to head the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. During his seven years at LA BioMed, Ken led the way in gaining the public's recognition of the Institute and launching a program to build an infrastructure for the organization that matches the quality of our research enterprise

LA BioMed is well-positioned for the future. As Interim President and CEO, I thank all of you whose support is so invaluable to LA BioMed and look forward to working with you in the New Year as we continue our quest for better health care for all people. This has been our quest for more than half a century, and it is a quest we are privileged to continue to pursue at LA BioMed.

**Carole Wagner Vallianos, Esq.**  
Interim President and CEO



## Message from the Board Chair

For nearly six decades, LA BioMed's talented investigators and staff have devoted themselves and their work to a better future for human health. They have given tirelessly of their time and their energy to this mission.

On the LA BioMed Board of Directors, we too are devoting ourselves to the future – a stronger future for the Institute through focusing on strategic initiatives involving service to investigators, improved facilities, greater fundraising, technology transfer and revenue diversification as well as further strengthening our important partnerships with Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and our friends with the County of Los Angeles.

Through a strategic planning process this year, we have gained extensive input from investigators, staff, board members and the community in charting a course for the Institute's future and in developing "action plans" for implementing our strategic initiatives.

This long-term planning will provide a roadmap for continued strategic growth of the research enterprise and for strengthening LA BioMed. Ultimately, our mission is the creation of an environment where researchers can continue to advance innovation and where the next generation of investigators can receive the training they need to build on the accomplishments of their predecessors.



We on the board are privileged to serve an Institute that has already accomplished so much, from developing the thyroid deficiency test to creating an enzyme replacement therapy for Hurler-Scheie Disease, the most effective treatment for this extremely rare hereditary condition.

LA BioMed investigators devised inexpensive eye drops that prevented blindness in children around the world. They developed new approaches to exercise rehabilitation for victims of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and they were responsible for a test to determine the carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, an inherited fatal disorder. In partnership with Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, one of the nation's premier public hospitals, LA BioMed scientists have been able to translate their discoveries in the lab to treatments, preventives and cures for their patients. This group of physicians and Ph.D. investigators is routinely recognized as one of the top medical teams in the country. It is a great privilege to work with them and for them.

If the past is indeed prologue, LA BioMed will build on this proud tradition and enjoy a very promising future. We on the board of directors are committed to ensuring a vital and growing research enterprise that can support and respond to our scientists' needs so they can seek the discoveries that will contribute to a healthier future for us all. Finally, I want to thank the members of the board and other volunteers for all of their help in pushing forward the mission and vision of LA BioMed.

**Scott D. Somers**  
Board Chair

## A Year of LA BioMed Achievements

*The Institute's investigators continue to break new ground and earn recognition around the world for their accomplishments as they translate discoveries and transform health care. Following is a list of some of the past year's highlights.*

**Marianne Gausche-Hill, M.D., FACEP, FAAP, Diane M. Birnbaumer, M.D., FACEP, and Robert Hockberger, M.D., FACEP**, were named Heroes of Emergency Medicine by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). This honor was part of ACEP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recognizes emergency physicians who have made significant contributions to emergency medicine, their communities and their patients.



**Stanislav L. Karsten, Ph.D.**, was the winner of the 2008 Liu Young Investigator Award given to an outstanding young member of LA BioMed's faculty. **Kevin Bruhn, Ph.D.**, and **Agnes Chen, M.D.**, were the two finalists for the honor. The goal of the Liu Young Investigator Award is to nurture excellence and provide support for an outstanding young scientist conducting research on LA BioMed's campus. Department chairs, division chiefs and other faculty nominate young scientists on the basis of the quality of their research. Each nominee also must be an assistant professor or instructor engaged in ongoing research at the Institute.

**Christian de Virgilio, M.D.**, received the 2007 National Golden Apple for Teaching Excellence Award from the American Medical Student Association. Dr. de Virgilio, a LA BioMed investigator and professor of surgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine, had previously won the UCLA Golden Apple for Teaching Excellence Award in 1998 and again each year from 2000 to 2006.

**Dominic DeCristofaro, M.D., Grant Hieshima, M.D., and Jerrold Turner, M.D.**, were the honorees at the 2008 LA BioMed Legends event. This annual event honors the achievements of internationally renowned physician-scientists who are alumni of LA BioMed and have contributed greatly to the advancement of medicine and the Institute's campus.

**Roger J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.**, testified May 5, 2008, to the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing in Washington, D.C. on "The Lack of Hospital Emergency Surge Capacity: Will the Administration's Medicaid Regulations Make it Worse?" He described Harbor-UCLA Medical Center's emergency department and told the panel that Los Angeles County opposed the new regulations because they "would greatly reduce Medicaid funding for safety net hospitals, endangering the patients and communities served by them."

## A Year of LA BioMed Achievements (Continued)

**Ronald S. Swerdloff, M.D.**, received The Endocrine Society's "Distinguished Educator Award" at its 2008 annual convention. The Endocrine Society bestows this honor to a single recipient "in recognition of exceptional achievement as an educator in the discipline of endocrinology and metabolism." Dr. Swerdloff has been teaching for 39 years. For 35 of those years, he directed the clinical and research training programs at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, training more than 130 endocrine fellows.

The American Heart Association's Los Angeles Division honored LA BioMed investigator **John Michael Criley, M.D.**, and William Koenig, Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency's medical director, with its "Passion of the Heart" awards April 3 at its annual Heart Awards Ceremony. Dr. Criley is considered the pioneer of the paramedic model, having developed the model now in use around the country. The American Heart Association's awards recognized the evolution of advanced cardiac care in LA County, starting with the

paramedic program and continuing with recent advancements in which paramedics take patients suffering from a "STEMI" (S-T Elevation Myocardial Infarction) to a hospital providing intracoronary intervention to restore blood flow to the threatened heart muscle.



**Ronald S. Swerdloff, M.D.**, and **Christina Wang, M.D.**, were two of the lead authors of an article in the May 2008 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* titled, "Determinants of the Rate and Extent of Spermatogenic Suppression during Hormonal Male Contraception: An Integrated Analysis." The study revealed that the combination of testosterone and progestin suppressed sperm production faster and more completely than testosterone alone. Testosterone and other male hormones act as contraceptives by creating negative feedback in a man's reproductive system, suppressing the production of sperm, according to the research.

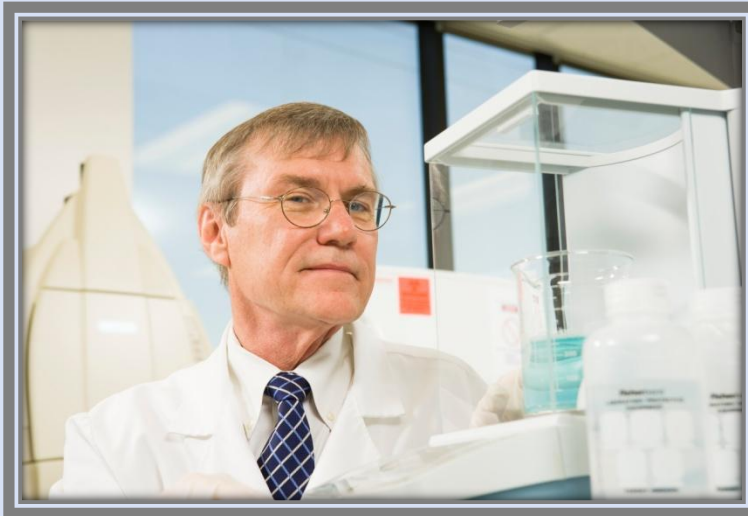
A study by **Marianne Gausche-Hill, M.D., FACEP, FAAP**, **Charles Schmitz, M.D.**, and **Roger J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.**, was published in the December 2007 issue of *Pediatrics*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Their study was the first survey to specifically measure hospital pediatric preparedness, and it found few U.S. emergency rooms are properly equipped for children. Only 6 percent of the 1,489 emergency rooms that responded to the study had all the medicine and equipment the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) recommend.

*Photo by Frank Brown*

## A Year of LA BioMed Achievements (Continued)

**Ira Lesser, M.D.,** and **Daniel B. Castro, M.D.,** are among the authors of a study reported in November's *Medical Care* journal that African Americans and Latinos didn't respond as well as whites to medication for their depression. The study suggests that the lower response rates may stem from differences in socioeconomic background – rather than race or ethnicity per se. When some of the socioeconomic and health disparities present when subjects entered the study were taken into account, the researchers found the response to antidepressant medication was more similar among all groups. These findings suggest African Americans and Latinos from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may need more than medication to be treated successfully for depression.

**Drs. Michael R. Yeaman** and **Nannette Y. Yount** were the authors of an article, entitled “*Unifying themes in host defense effector polypeptides*” that appeared in the September 2007 issue of *Nature Reviews Microbiology*. The article reported on new clues they have uncovered in immune system molecules that defend against infection. They presented evidence that small proteins in the immune systems of humans and all kingdoms of life share fundamental structural and functional characteristics that enable these molecules to inhibit or kill microbial pathogens – even as these pathogens evolve to resist conventional antibiotics.



**Rowan Chlebowski, M.D., Ph.D.,** led a team of researchers in a study published in the Feb. 25, 2008 issue of *Archives of Internal Medicine*, one of the *JAMA/Archives* journals. The research team examined the effect of combined hormone therapy on breast cancer detection over five years and found it resulted in more than one in 10 women having otherwise avoidable mammogram abnormalities and one in 25 women having breast biopsies. Combined

hormone therapy also compromised the diagnostic performance of mammograms and breast biopsies. *NBC Nightly News* and publications around the country reported on the study. Dr Chlebowski also was the lead author for a study published in the November 2007 *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* that found a new, simpler model for predicting breast cancer risk in postmenopausal women appears to be as accurate as a more complicated method currently used to decide if women would benefit from medication to reduce their risk of getting cancer.

**Wai-Nang Paul Lee, M.D.** led a team of LA Biomed researchers that included **Drs. Gary Guishan Xiao, Meena Garg, Shu Lim** and **Derek Wong** in a study published in the online edition of the *Journal of Applied Physiology*. In a major breakthrough for future research and drug development, the investigators developed a new, more reliable method for measuring protein synthesis and turnover, processes that are critical to understanding cellular functions.

## Message from the LA BioMed Foundation

The New Year has arrived with its new beginnings. At LA BioMed, our renowned researchers offer our communities and our world new beginnings in some form every day.



They lead the way in research into new approaches to prevent, treat and cure disease. From developing the model of paramedic care in use around the country to the creation of the modern cholesterol test, LA BioMed has been at the forefront in changing and improving health care around the world.

Since its creation more than a decade ago, the LA BioMed Foundation Board has been a constant source of support for the Institute. Our scientists and staff know they can count on this board of dedicated community volunteers to lead the way as fundraisers and emissaries to the community as they spread the word about the many accomplishments of LA BioMed.

Amid changing economic times this past year, the Foundation Board is proud to have maintained financial support for the Institute and to have hosted Science Soirees where members of the community could learn more about LA BioMed's research.

The Foundation Board also hosted another wonderfully successful Discovery Gala in 2008 that captured the spirit of the past year's many accomplishments with a videotape prepared under the direction of LA BioMed researcher Marianne Gausche-Hill, M.D. with financial support from Brad and Paula Moore. Held for the first time at the California Science Center, the Gala also recognized the research focuses of the past year with the Discovery Showcase, a display explaining LA BioMed's ongoing studies.

With the New Year underway, we on the LA BioMed Foundation Board look forward to continuing to serve as a force for fund-raising and "friend-raising" at the Institute. Our goal is to ensure LABioMed maintains its position as a powerful force for new beginnings in health care around the world.

Sharon L. Guthrie  
President  
Los Angeles Biomedical Research Foundation  
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

## Featured Donors

*We are so grateful to Tina and George McFarlin at the Susan Scott Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation for their generous gifts to LA BioMed and their strong support of its training, research and community service.*

### **Tina and George McFarlin Susan Scott Foundation**

Tina and George McFarlin, at the Susan Scott Foundation, avidly focus on the needs of children and medical research and find LA BioMed matches their interests. Through the foundation, they have directed \$800,000 in donations to the Institute over the past three years because of their confidence in its ground-breaking research.

“It is quite a responsibility to find the right place to donate, and finding LA BioMed was a blessing,” Mrs. McFarlin said. “We’re confident of the ability and quality of the people and feel fortunate to be a small part of supporting their work.”

The McFarlins established the Susan Scott Foundation to create a lasting legacy for Mrs. McFarlin’s cousin, Susan Scott.

“Although our foundation is relatively new, we’ve made efforts to reach as many as we can through donations, such as to LA BioMed,” Mrs. McFarlin said. “The research is relevant and timely.”

### **Annenberg Foundation**

The Annenberg Foundation, one of the nation’s leading philanthropic organizations, chose LA BioMed as one of its grant recipients in 2007-08. It donated \$100,000 to help fund the Institute’s general operations, which sustain the open exchange of knowledge within LA BioMed, and between LA BioMed and the world beyond.

Walter H. Annenberg, a renowned publisher, broadcaster, diplomat and philanthropist, established the Annenberg Foundation in 1989 to advance the public well-being through improved communication. As the principal means of achieving this goal, the Foundation encourages the development of more effective ways to share ideas and information.

The Annenberg Foundation provides funding and support to nonprofit organizations around the world. Over the last 15 years, the Foundation has awarded some 5,200 grants totaling more than \$2.8 billion.

Its donation to LA BioMed strengthened the bridge between science and medicine by supporting the training of new physician-scientists, the enhancement of systems for tracking research projects, the promotion of technology transfers, clinical trial outreach, and educational programming, including publication of the newsletter, *Advancing Innovation*.

## 2007-08 Donors

*LA BioMed is exceedingly grateful to the many individuals, businesses and foundations whose generous donations have supported its mission in 2007-08.*

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## Message from the Treasurer

LA BioMed remains financially strong and sound amid challenging economic times, according to our annual audited financial statements. Like most investors, the Institute experienced a downturn in its investments this past year, after many years of substantial gains in the market. This resulted in a slight downturn in our net assets, the first in more than five years.

In response, the Institute has trimmed its expenses, and we on the board continue to review the budget to make sure all expenditures are for items critical to LA BioMed's research mission.



We also continue to seek new sources of funding to enhance the Institute's budget. This past year, LA BioMed enjoyed an upturn in its major source of funding from grants and contracts. This came after years of declines in federal grant funding, and we are optimistic that the new emphasis on financing scientific research will help LA BioMed flourish.

The Institute also enjoyed a one-time increase in royalty payments for one of the ground-breaking new treatments developed at LA BioMed. These payments serve as further evidence of the long-term strength of our commitment to taking the discoveries from laboratory to the patients who need them.

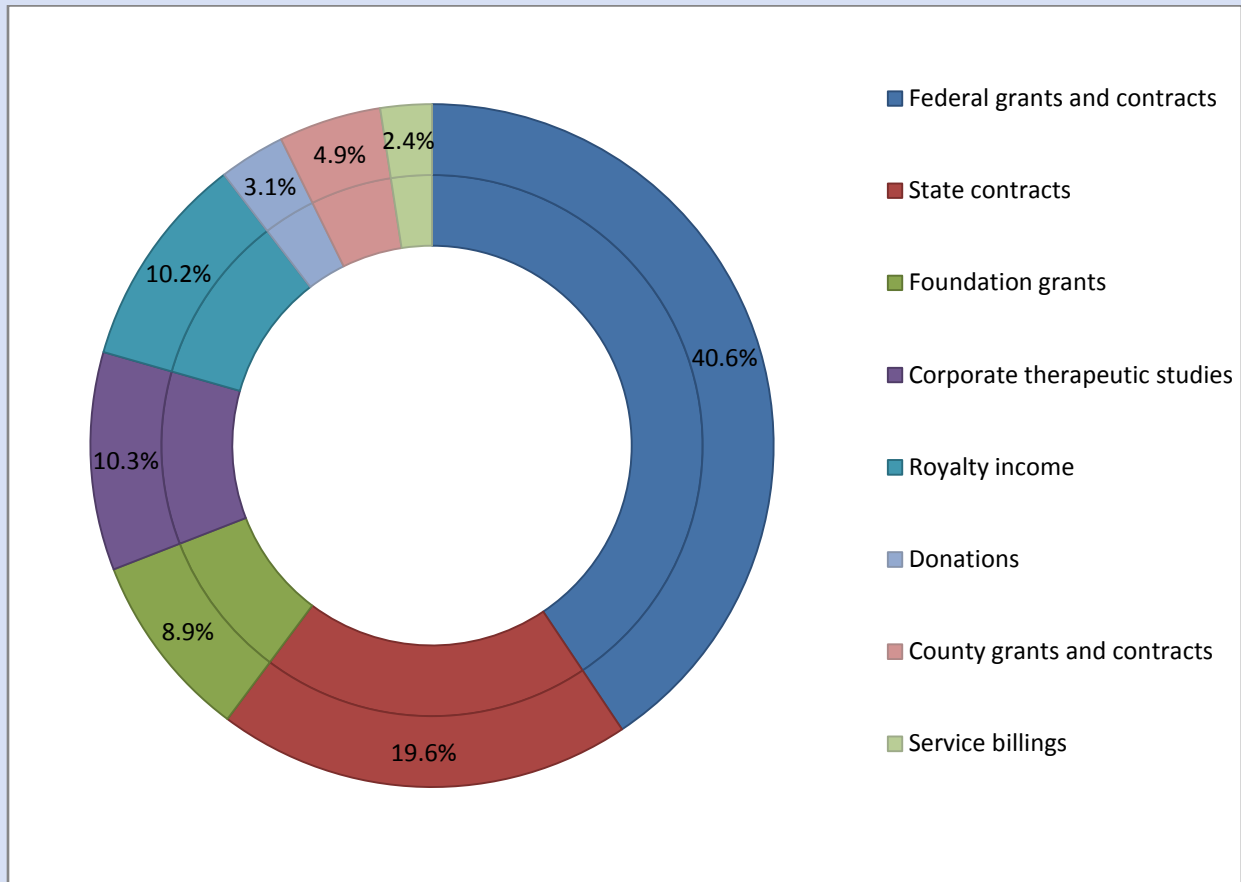
In addition, the Institute celebrated the opening of the Hanley-Hardison Research Center and continued its capital campaign for the next new building.

At LA BioMed, our sound financial position and the continuing support of our donors and granting organizations make it possible for us to continue investing in our infrastructure, our investigators and our staff.

With this support, we can ensure LA BioMed will continue to lead the way in advancing the pace of discovery and improving human health.

**Richard K. Learned**  
Treasurer

## Revenues by Source



### REVENUES BY SOURCE

For the Year Ending June 30, 2008

|                               |           |        |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Federal grants and contracts  | \$ 29,569 | 41.0%  |
| State contracts               | \$ 14,284 | 19.8%  |
| Foundation grants             | \$ 6,460  | 9.0%   |
| Corporate therapeutic studies | \$ 7,514  | 10.4%  |
| Royalty income                | \$ 7,403  | 10.3%  |
| Other sources                 | \$ (673)  | -0.9%  |
| Donations                     | \$ 2,284  | 3.2%   |
| County grants and contracts   | \$ 3,533  | 4.9%   |
| Service billings              | \$ 1,768  | 2.5%   |
|                               | \$ 72,142 | 100.0% |

## Statement of Activities

*For the Year Ending June 30, 2008\**

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Grant and contract revenue earned | \$ 61,360       |
| Donations                         | \$ 2,284        |
| Service billings                  | \$ 1,768        |
| Investment earnings and losses    | \$ (802)        |
| Membership dues                   | \$ 20           |
| Rental income                     | \$ 109          |
| Royalty income                    | <u>\$ 7,403</u> |
| <br>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE     | <br>\$ 72,142   |

### Expenses

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Program Services              |                         |
| Research                      | \$ 30,656               |
| Teaching and training         | \$ 3,419                |
| Health and community services | \$ 17,461               |
| Other programs                | \$ 8,238                |
|                               | <u><u>\$ 59,774</u></u> |
| <br>Supporting Services       |                         |
| Management and general        | \$ 12,492               |
| <br>TOTAL EXPENSES            | <br>\$ 72,266           |
| <br>Changes in Net Assets     | <br>\$ (124)            |

*\*Numbers in the \$1,000s*

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Year Ending June 30, 2008

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents                          | \$ 13,387        |
| Investments in marketable securities               | \$ 35,534        |
| Pledges receivable, current portion                | \$ 185           |
| Reimbursable grant expenses and billed receivables | \$ 12,132        |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets          | <u>\$ 11</u>     |
|  | <u>\$ 61,249</u> |

Property and Equipment, Net \$ 12,788

#### Noncurrent Assets

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Pledges receivable, net of current portion | \$ 1,076      |
| Other assets                               | <u>\$ 167</u> |
|  | \$ 1,243      |

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 75,280

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Current Liabilities

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses                          | \$ 6,415      |
| Accrued compensation   | \$ 1,773      |
| Liability for amounts held for others, net of current position | \$ 379        |
| Long-term debt, current portion                                | \$ 273        |
| Deferred revenue   | \$ 5,349      |
| Interest rate swap   | <u>\$ 475</u> |
|  | \$ 14,664     |

#### Noncurrent Liabilities

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Deferred employee benefits                                     | \$ 5,957        |
| Liability for amounts held for others, net of current position | \$ 1,707        |
| Long-term debt, current portion                                | <u>\$ 5,925</u> |
|  | \$ 13,589       |

#### Net Assets

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Unrestricted net assets           | \$ 39,724     |
| Temporarily restricted net assets | \$ 7,084      |
| Permanently restricted net assets | <u>\$ 219</u> |
|                                   | \$ 47,027     |

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 75,280

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