

AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2017



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE®
SINCE 1995

Dear Canine Health Supporter,

We are proud to report that 2017 was another highly successful year for the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (CHF). The Foundation experienced significant growth in research grant funding, grant applications, and interactions with supporters like you. In the pages of this Annual Report, we highlight the accomplishments that made the past year so notable.

In 2017, CHF received 191 proposals for research and awarded 43 grants in 18 research areas including oncology, cardiology, epilepsy, and tick-borne diseases. Since 1995, CHF-funded research has resulted in 680 peer-reviewed scientific publications and over 23,000 citations in other research articles. Our careful analysis of research opportunities allows us to maximize your generous donations and support the most promising research.

We are also pleased to report that in recognition of our effectiveness and efficiency, last year CHF was awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar; their highest level of recognition for nonprofit performance. By achieving this level of recognition, GuideStar acknowledges the progress and results of CHF as we strive to be responsible stewards of your donations of time, talent and resources to improve the health of our beloved dogs.

In 2018, CHF will continue to bring scientists and dog lovers together to help prevent, treat and cure canine diseases. None of this would be possible without the continued support of our donors, and for this we thank you very much.



J. Charles Garvin, MD, FACS
Chairman of the Board



Diane Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer

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Our Work

The mission of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc. (CHF), is to advance the health of all dogs and their owners by funding scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

As the largest funder of health research focused solely on dogs, CHF believes in the advancement of science to address the unmet medical needs of all dogs.

Together, we are moving canine health research forward, benefitting the dogs who enrich peoples' lives.



Dr. Edward Breitschwerdt

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*Denotes members of the
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Corporate Alliances



In 1995, the American Kennel Club (AKC) founded CHF to advance canine health research. The AKC's cumulative investment of nearly \$25 million in financial support to further the mission of CHF includes office space and other in-kind services to keep operating expenses low, and helps maximize the dollars CHF puts toward research. In 2017, the AKC continued their commitment to CHF's Tick-Borne Disease Initiative by matching contributions up to \$250,000 and added a new Epilepsy Initiative in which they also matched contributions up to \$250,000. Additionally, AKC continued the Donor Match Initiative, matching \$500,000 of contributions from new and lapsed donors.



For 20 years, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company has partnered with CHF, investing more than \$14 million to promote the importance of canine health research. Purina sponsors CHF's biennial National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, which was held on August 11-13, 2017, in St. Louis, Missouri. Purina also supports CHF through the Purina Parent Club Partnership Program, and provides the opportunity to memorialize and honor dogs and other loved ones with a personalized brick paver benefitting CHF on the Walk of Champions and Path of Honor at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, Missouri. To learn more, please visit akcCHF.org/bricks.



As a veterinary biopharmaceutical partner, Zoetis has contributed practical support and invested \$1.9 million to further the mission of CHF. With their strong commitment to the future of the veterinary profession, and through their basic and applied research initiatives, Zoetis helps advance canine health through their leadership and scientific expertise.

2017 Scientific Review Committee

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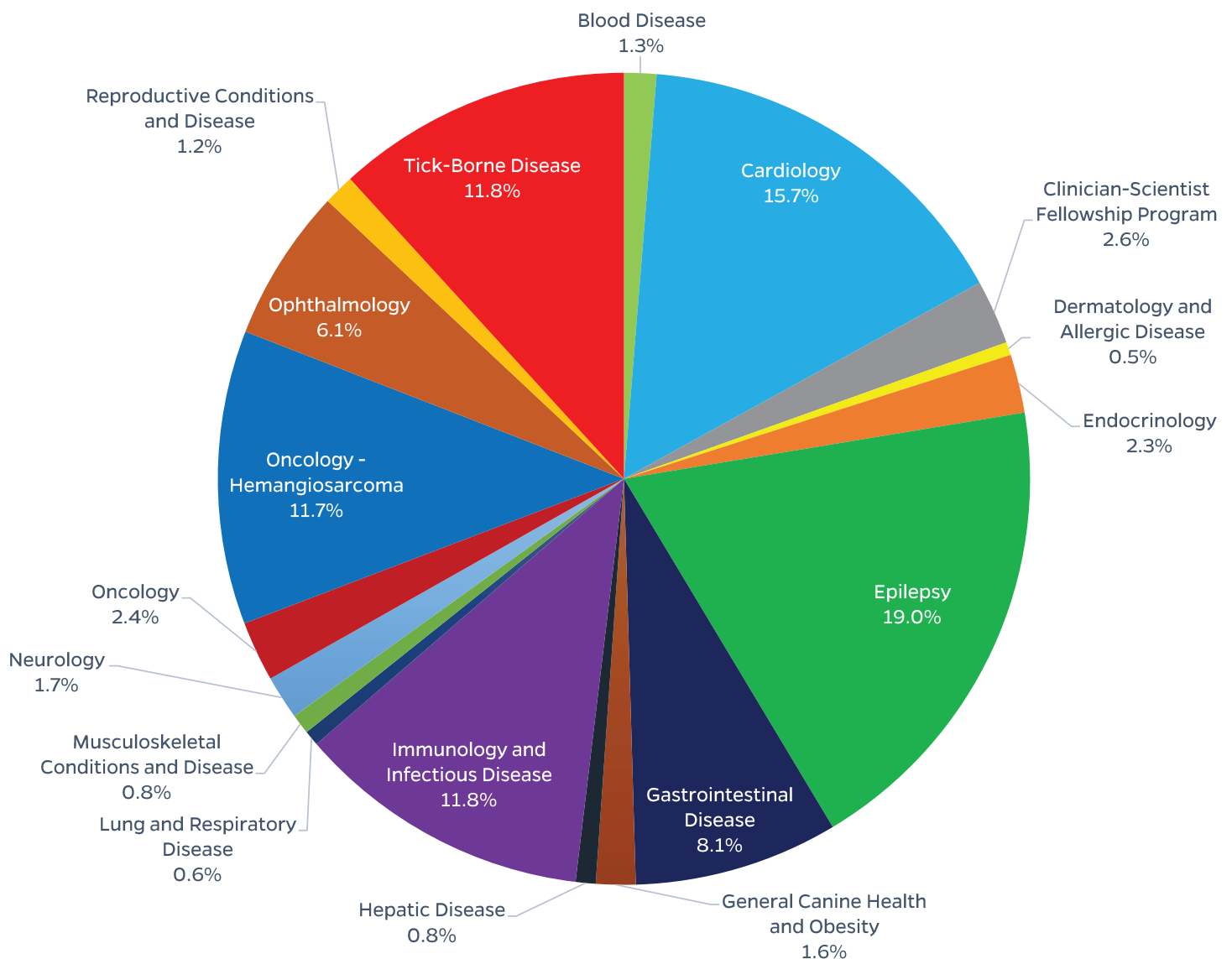
Ingrid Sarelius, PhD

Jamie Young, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Research Highlights

- In 2017: 43 new canine health research grants were awarded, totaling \$1.94 million.
- CHF currently manages 140 active research grants, totaling \$10.79 million.
- Since 1995: 915 research grants have been awarded, totaling \$39.6 million through 12/31/17.
- Since 1995: 680 peer-reviewed scientific publications cited over 23,000 times have resulted from CHF funding, including 42 new scientific publications in 2017.

2017 Grants Awarded by Research Program Area



Learn more about our complete research portfolio: akcCHF.org/researchportfolio.

Your Impact

Through peer-reviewed publications, CHF-funded investigators broadly share their findings with other researchers, veterinarians, breeders and the dog-loving public to bring about better treatments, more accurate diagnoses and an improved understanding of the mechanisms that cause disease.

2017 Published Highlights from CHF Research Programs

- Researchers build a better understanding of the genetics of canine epilepsy, identifying defects in the DIRAS family GTPase 1 in Rhodesian Ridgebacks, and ADAM23 as a common risk gene. These gene identifications may also help humans with epilepsy.
 - (akcchf.org/2248)
 - (akcchf.org/1425)
- Serology and PCR testing for vector-borne diseases in dogs with clinical signs of immune-mediated disease was determined to improve proper diagnosis and treatment.
 - (akcchf.org/1900)
- Researchers establish characteristics of sperm measures that affect pregnancy outcomes, and the use of advanced semen analyses for canine reproduction.
 - (akcchf.org/2124)
- From advanced imaging techniques and diagnostic correlations to orthosis and computer modeling, researchers are improving how joint injuries are managed in our four-legged companions.
 - (akcchf.org/1584)
 - (akcchf.org/1762)
 - (akcchf.org/1892)
 - (akcchf.org/1782)
- New methods of hydrogels used as tissue scaffolding may advance the next level of regenerative medicine for cartilage disorders in dogs.
 - (akcchf.org/2078)
- The autosomal dominant inheritance of the Dal blood group and knowledge of its prevalence in several dog breeds improve safety for canine blood transfusions and reduce risk of incompatibility issues.
 - (akcchf.org/2148)
- A biomarker sensitive for the diagnosis of canine Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) was identified in cerebrospinal fluid. Testing for Phosphorylated Neurofilament Heavy (pNF-H) concentrations may allow for the early diagnosis of DM to help improve the overall outcome for dogs.
 - (akcchf.org/2165)
- A bispecific approach to the treatment of sarcomas holds promise to improve the survival outcomes of dogs, and potentially humans, afflicted with this type of cancer.
 - (akcchf.org/1889)

Photo Credit: Kerrin Churchill



Parent Club Conference

2017 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference

CHF hosted the 2017 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference on August 11-13 in St. Louis, Missouri. The biennial event, sponsored by the Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, drew over 250 attendees including 16 speakers, 33 veterinary students, and 150 breed club representatives from across the United States. Veterinary student attendance was sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals and the AKC.

Also featured at the conference was the presentation of the Asa Mays DVM Award for Excellence in Canine Health Research to Dr. Edward Breitschwerdt, a specialist in veterinary internal medicine and infectious diseases at North Carolina State University (see photo on page 3).



AKC Match Initiatives

2017 AKC Match Initiatives

Thanks to the support of many dog clubs, foundations, and individuals, CHF met the 2017 AKC match fundraising goal of \$250,000 each for the Tick-Borne Disease Initiative and the Epilepsy Initiative. Donations were generously matched by the AKC for CHF research programs.

In 2017, CHF raised more than \$288,000 through the AKC Donor Match Initiative, bringing total contributions through this initiative to almost \$4 million to date. The AKC Donor Match Initiative matched contributions to CHF from new donors and from donors whose last gift was on or prior to December 31, 2014. The campaign provided an added incentive for dog lovers to double their impact for canine health.

The AKC Donor Match Initiative continues in 2018 with all gifts from new donors, or from donors whose last gift was on or before December 31, 2015, being matched up to \$500,000.

To support the 2018 AKC Match Initiatives and learn more about the new CHOICE (Canine Health Opportunity to Impact CarE) Program and the Hemangiosarcoma Match Initiative, please visit akcCHF.org/match.

Photo Credit: American Kennel Club



Investing in the Future

Theriogenology Residency Program

The Theriogenology Residency Program is a collaboration between the American Kennel Club, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and the Theriogenology Foundation to increase the number of trained practitioners in companion animal theriogenology. Theriogenology is the branch of veterinary medicine concerned with reproduction, including the physiology and pathology of male and female reproductive systems, and the clinical practice of veterinary obstetrics, gynecology, and andrology. To learn more, or to support this program, visit: akcchf.org/research/therio-residency.



2017 AKC/AKC CHF/TF Theriogenology Residents



Carla Barstow, DVM: Auburn University

Residency Coordinator: Robyn R. Wilborn, DVM, MS; Auburn University

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2019

Dr. Carla Barstow has been showing and breeding Samoyeds for over 20 years. Prior to obtaining her DVM degree, she spent 10 years as a veterinary technician. Dr. Barstow then received her DVM degree from the University of Minnesota. Upon graduation, she returned to Tampa to join a private practice which emphasized reproduction, and enjoyed a heavy theriogenology caseload prior to starting her residency.



Tessa Fiamengo, DVM: Ohio State University

Residency Coordinator: Marco A. Coutinho da Silva, DVM, PhD; Ohio State University

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2018

Dr. Tessa Fiamengo graduated with honors from Colorado State University with a major in Biology and minors in Biomedical Sciences and Philosophy. She earned her DVM degree from Oregon State University, and has worked as a small animal general practitioner in Portland, Oregon, prior to starting her residency.



Victor Stora, DVM: University of Pennsylvania

Residency Coordinator: Margret L. Casal, DVM, PhD; University of Pennsylvania

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2018

Dr. Victor Stora received his Bachelor of Science from Wagner College, Staten Island, New York, with a double major in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biochemistry. He received his DVM degree from Louisiana State University, and completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Stora breeds Shetland Sheepdogs.



Karen Von Dollen, DVM: North Carolina State University

Residency Coordinator: Scott Bailey, DVM, MS; North Carolina State University

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2019

Dr. Karen Von Dollen attended Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, where she majored in chemistry with minors in mathematics and biology and was a member of the varsity lacrosse team. She earned her DVM degree from the University of California, Davis. Following graduation, she completed internships at Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center in Los Olivos, California and Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital in Victoria, Australia.

AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowships

The AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program supports young scientists. Through this effort our mission to prevent, treat and cure canine disease will endure for years to come.

Recipients are selected based upon the following criteria for a resident/graduate student:

- 1) Enthusiasm for pursuing a career in canine health research,
- 2) Research aligns with CHF's mission to advance the health of all dogs,
- 3) Research abides by CHF policies, including the Humane Use of Animals Policy.

Class of 2018



Kathryn Dalton, VMD, MPH; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Mentor: Meghan Davis, DVM, MPH, PhD

Dr. Kathryn Dalton received her VMD from the University of Pennsylvania and her Masters of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Dalton's work focuses on how microbial communities are transmitted among animals, humans and the environment, relating microbial community profiles to human and canine health outcomes.



Shelby Gasson, DVM; Texas A&M University

Mentor: W. Brian Saunders, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVS

Dr. Shelby Gasson received her DVM from Texas A&M University. She is this year's AKC Canine Health Foundation GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get Ready To Rumble "Rumble" Clinician-Scientist Fellow (akcCHF.org/rumble). Dr. Gasson's work focuses on the development of tissue engineering constructs for treatment of osteochondral defects. Dr. Gasson will be evaluating growth and differentiation of canine mesenchymal stem cells on different tissue scaffolds.



Mariah Gentry, DVM; University of Pennsylvania

Mentor: Margret L. Casal, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ECAR

Dr. Mariah Gentry received her DVM from Cornell University. Her work focuses on the heritability of renal dysplasia in Cairn Terriers and aims to develop a DNA-based marker test so the disorder can be diagnosed at an early age. The findings of this work would allow for more informed breeding decisions as well as make lifestyle changes earlier to prolong the lives of dogs with this disorder.



Sita Withers, BVSc(Hons); University of California, Davis

Mentor: Robert B. Rebhun, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology)

Dr. Sita Withers received her BVSc(Hons) from Melbourne University, Werribee, Australia. Dr. Withers' research aims to build a better understanding of how naturally occurring canine cancers can contribute to the study of immunotherapeutics in dogs as well as people. Her research is focused on the immune microenvironment in canine osteosarcoma both in the primary and metastatic sites.



GCHP Hill Country's
Let's Get Ready To Rumble

Financials

Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2017, and 2016

| Assets | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$2,869,411 | \$6,924,251 |
| Investments | 13,784,613 | 7,851,461 |
| Receivable for proceeds from sale of investments | 2,888 | 639,025 |
| Contributions receivable | 1,001,941 | 975,167 |
| Other receivables | 2,682 | 2,368 |
| Prepaid expenses | 67,058 | 64,730 |
| Fixed assets, net | <u>43,645</u> | <u>60,380</u> |
| Total assets | <u><u>\$17,772,238</u></u> | <u><u>\$16,517,382</u></u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$40,725 | \$55,179 |
| Grants payable | <u>3,698,333</u> | <u>3,727,667</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u><u>\$3,739,058</u></u> | <u><u>\$3,782,846</u></u> |
| Net assets: | | |
| Unrestricted | \$1,954,498 | \$2,004,167 |
| Temporarily restricted | 8,071,230 | 6,722,917 |
| Permanently restricted | <u>4,007,452</u> | <u>4,007,452</u> |
| Total net assets | <u><u>\$14,033,180</u></u> | <u><u>\$12,734,536</u></u> |
| Total liabilities and net assets | <u><u>\$17,772,238</u></u> | <u><u>\$16,517,382</u></u> |

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc.'s financial statements, audited by Williams, Overman & Pierce, LLP, are available at akcchf.org.

Summarized Statements of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2017, and 2016

| Revenues and Other Support | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Contributions | \$1,659,103 | \$2,991,954 |
| Contributions from related parties | 1,373,357 | 1,703,320 |
| Grant management income | 35,361 | 27,177 |
| Interest and dividend income | 397,459 | 222,941 |
| Net unrealized and realized investment gains | 823,751 | 113,517 |
| Sponsored events and conferences | 108,761 | 87,837 |
| In-kind donations | 374,677 | 330,517 |
| Miscellaneous income | 14,944 | 18,731 |
| Total revenues and other support | <u>\$4,787,413</u> | <u>\$5,495,994</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Canine research and education | \$2,730,206 | \$2,424,901 |
| Fundraising | 365,131 | 326,091 |
| General and administrative | 393,432 | 577,757 |
| Total expenses | <u>\$3,488,769</u> | <u>\$3,328,749</u> |
| Increase in net assets | 1,298,644 | 2,167,245 |
| Net assets – beginning of year | <u>\$12,734,536</u> | <u>\$10,567,291</u> |
| Net assets – end of year | <u>\$14,033,180</u> | <u>\$12,734,536</u> |

CHF is proud of our four-star rating from GuideStar, placing us in an elite group of charitable organizations that demonstrate a superior commitment to sound governance, quantifiable results and fiscal responsibility.



Heritage Society

CHF's Heritage Society acknowledges donors who have included CHF in their planned giving. These individuals understand the importance of securing the future health of dogs and advancing the mission of CHF so that all dogs live longer, healthier lives.

For more information about Heritage Society membership visit akcchf.org/heritagesociety or call 1-888-682-9696.

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Donor Profile



Gayle and Dick Denman

"Being supportive of CHF's dedication to the physical, mental and social well-being of all dogs throughout their lifetime has provided us with an opportunity to give back to the sport that has given so very much to us. Our involvement with AKC sports has blessed us with a lifetime of a sense of purpose, accomplishment and most importantly, friendships formed, four-legged and two-legged alike."

2017 Honor Roll

The Honor Roll of donors recognizes cash contributions of \$500 or more made between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. Space prohibits us from listing all donors; we are deeply grateful to all who support the CHF mission.

BENEFACTOR (\$500,000 - \$999,999)

American Kennel Club

BUILDER (\$100,000 - \$499,999)

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Dalmatian Club of America Foundation, Inc.
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Nestlé Purina PetCare Company
Zoetis

CHAMPION (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

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Irish Setter Club of America Foundation, Inc.
Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.
Merck Animal Health
Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc.
Rhodesian Ridgeback Charitable Foundation

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